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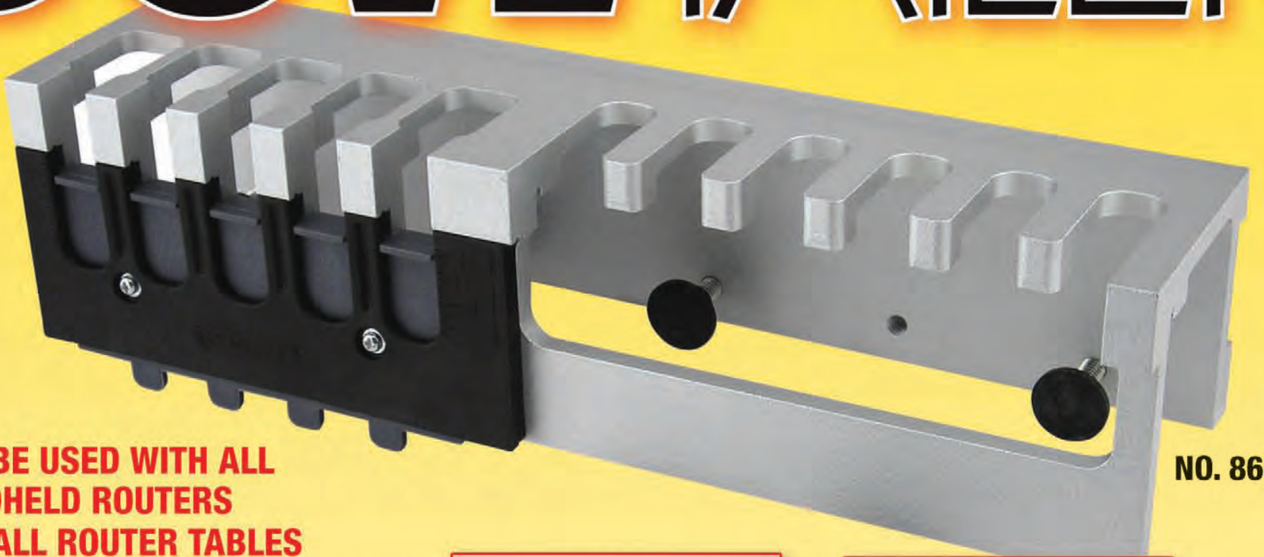

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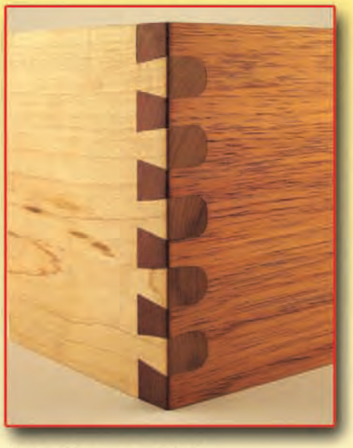

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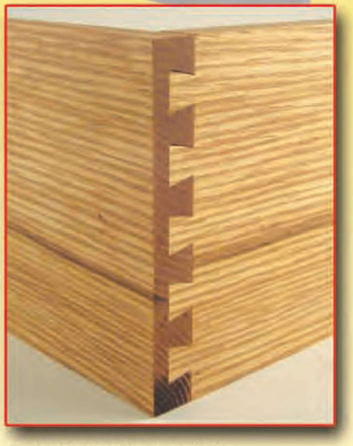

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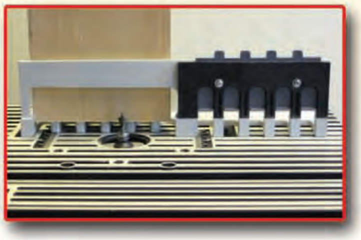

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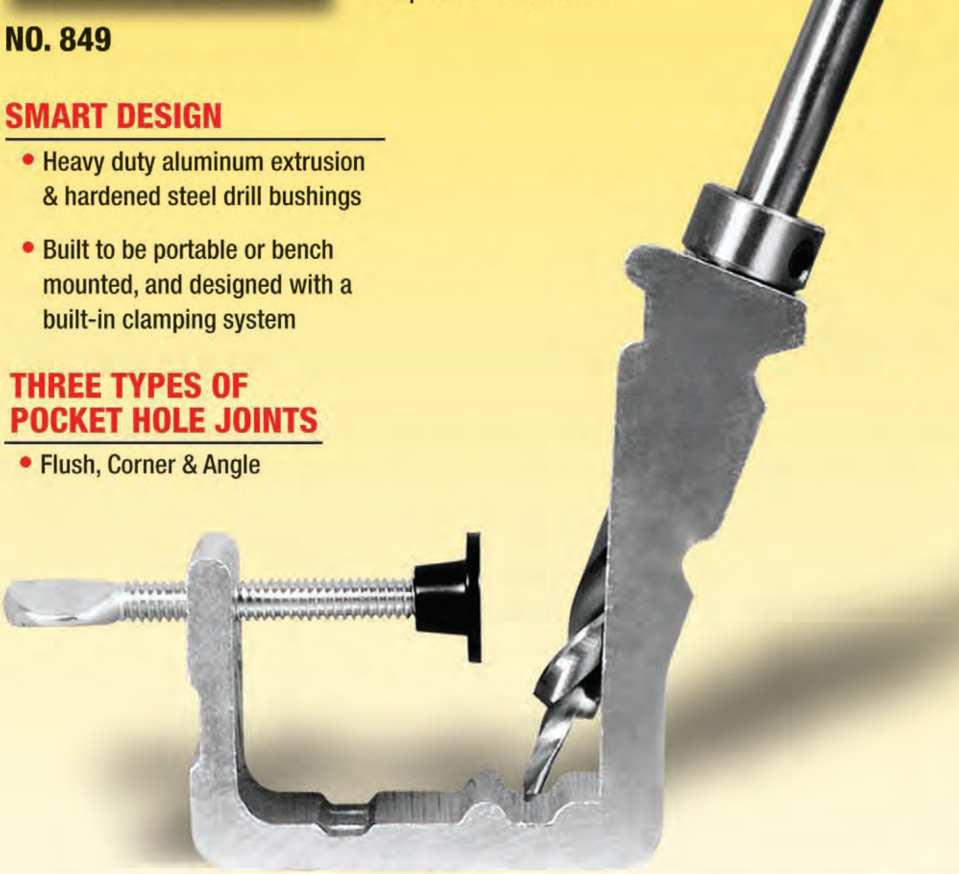
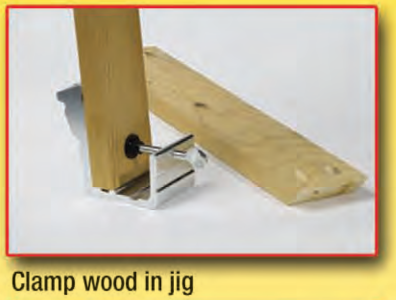
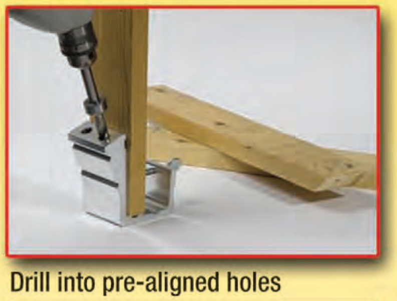
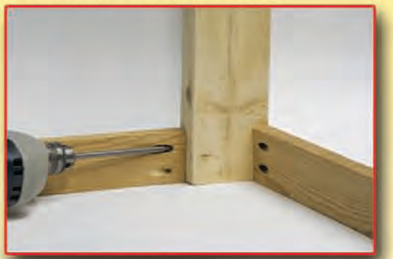




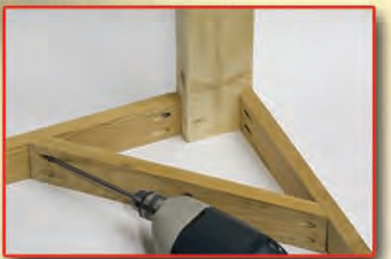
Clamp wood in jig



Drill into pre-aligned holes



Assemble flush & corner joints



Assemble angle joints

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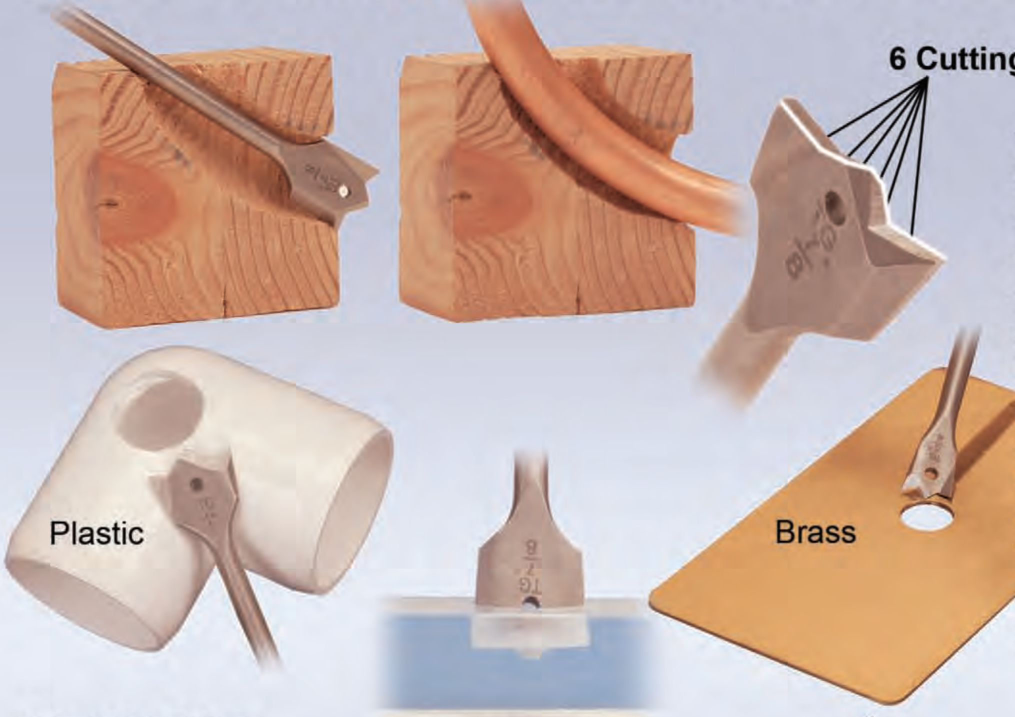

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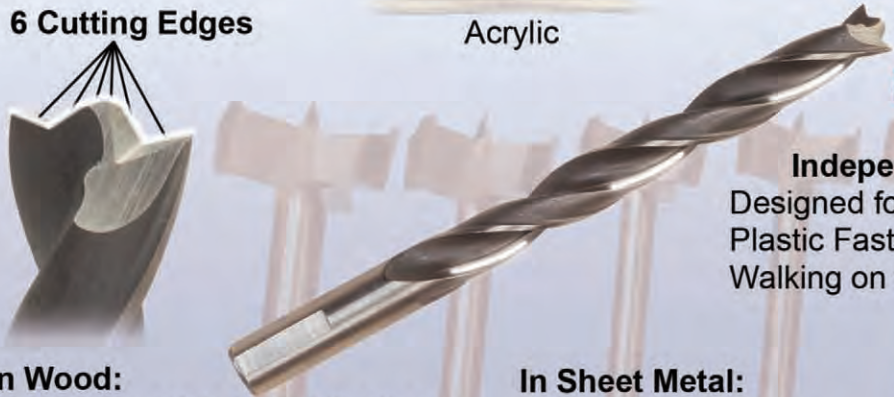

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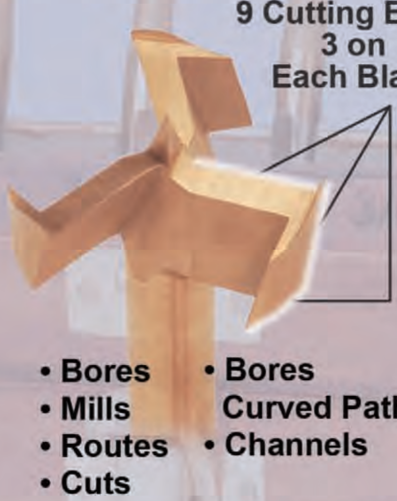

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LETTER

From The Editor-In-Chief

We like to stress the importance of safe building practices, whether you're building a shed, a deck, a partition wall or even your own house. Maybe we should also spend some time stressing the importance of inspecting the areas of your home that are already built.

This idea struck me over the July 4 weekend, as our community was abuzz about a local deck collapse. While celebrating the holiday late that Sunday night, a third-floor deck collapsed at an apartment complex in Hoover, Alabama, killing a 25-year-old man and injuring six others. At the time of publication, the accident remains under investigation, although initial news reports have alluded to problems with wood rot, likely compounded by out-of-date or inadequate building practices. Decks shouldn't just collapse beneath your feet, so this tragedy was likely preventable.

Then, lightning struck twice, at the same apartment complex. On Saturday, July 31, a second-floor deck on the property collapsed, injuring three people. (A dog that was also on the deck was not injured.) Luckily, these people suffered only minor injuries despite the fact that surviving a second-floor deck collapse has got to be a fairly harrowing experience.

"We don't have any clue if this particular incident was from the same cause or problem as the previous collapse," said Rusty Lowe, the information officer for the Hoover Fire Department to CBS 42 News, noting the ongoing investigation. "For all we know this could just be a terrible coincidence."

It seems to me this would be an even more frightening scenario if it were a coincidence, which would indicate multiple unrelated problems rather than a systemic weakness to address.

The management of the apartment complex declined to comment, but Lowe added, "We would advise the residents of the apartment complex, if the deck does not appear stable, if you notice that it might have shifted or moved, or when you walk on it, it doesn't feel stable—of course, stay off of it, notify the management and be very careful."

That's good advice, and you should apply it to your property as well, but I'd take it a step further. If possible, crawl beneath your porch or deck and check out its construction. It always helps to reinforce shoddy work before problems arise. The occasional inspection, maintenance and repairs, if needed, can go a long way toward ensuring a safe home.

Extreme How-To

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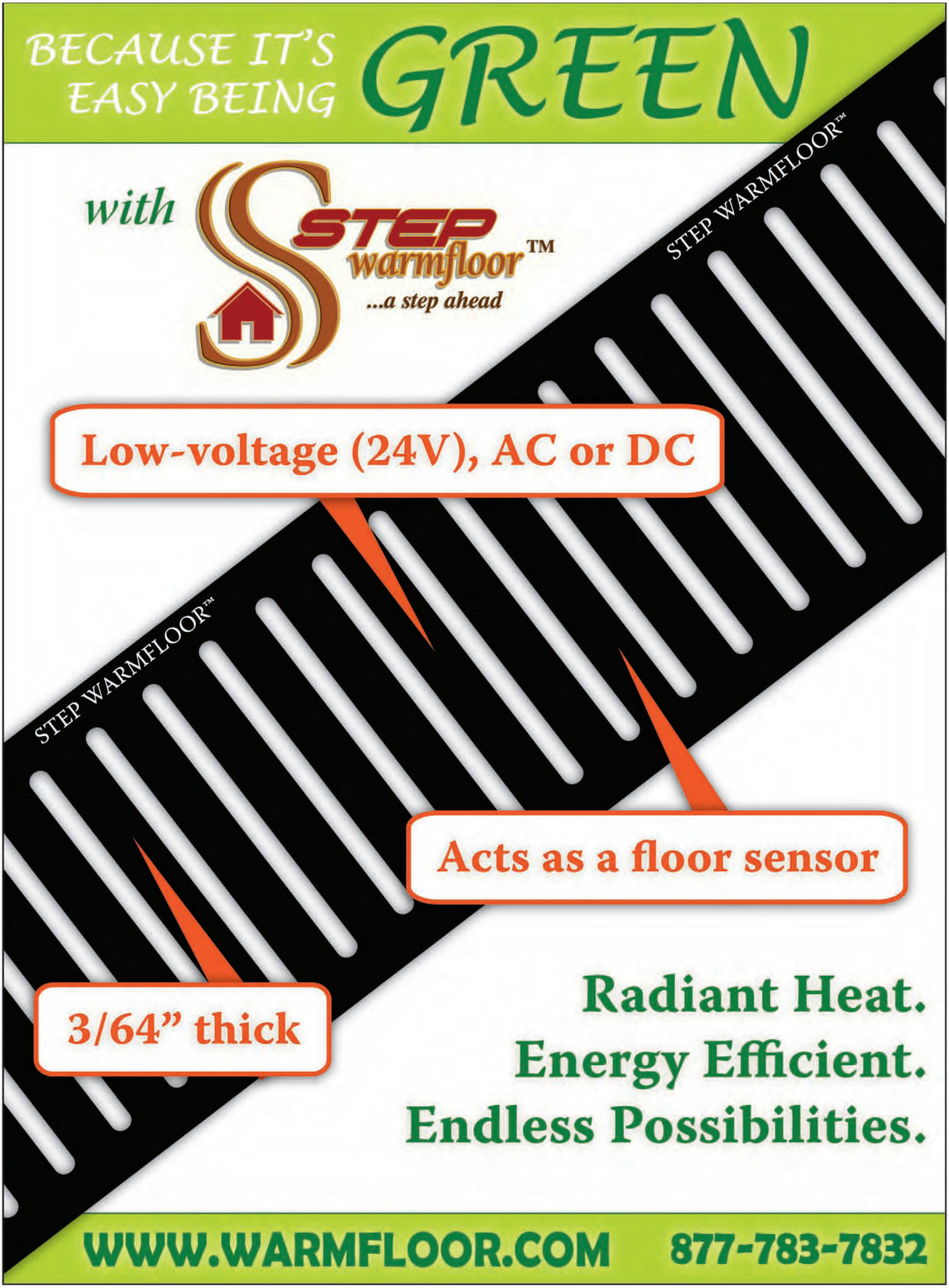
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Q&A

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Q: *I'm planning to build a small patio area with landscape pavers. Should I seal the pavers?*

A: Sealing your pavers is not absolutely necessary, but it is recommended. A sealed paver surface is much easier to clean, and may even prevent staining. Also, sealing will enhance and maintain brightly colored pavers. Sealing your pavers will prevent the growth of weeds in between your joints. You can also discourage weeds by ensuring the joints are completely filled with sand to prevent the amount of weed seeds that fall between the pavers.

……

Q: *We have roll roofing on a garden shed. During a storm a tree branch fell and stabbed a hole in the roofing material. What's the best way to repair the hole?*

A: If the roof deck is in good shape, then it should be a fairly straightforward repair. Roll roofing is typically made of the same material as asphalt shingles, but it can be cut into strips. For small holes, it might suffice to clean out the damaged area and fill it with roofing tar or roof sealant. Larger areas of damage may require you to cut out the damaged area and replace it with a new section of roll roofing. (If the underlayment is damaged then replace that, too.) Overlap the existing roofing by 6 inches on the sides and 3 inches at the top and bottom. Install it with roofing cement and roofing nails as you would for any new roof installation.

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Q. *I'm a single mom and would like to spruce up my grimy kitchen cabinets, but I don't have the time to repaint them. Do you have any suggestions on just cleaning them up a little?*

A. Because the kitchen is where people cook, typically there is a film of oil mixed with the dirt that is discoloring them. First, remove the hardware so you can scrub the entire painted surface—all you need is a screwdriver. Scrubbing with a solution of 50-percent ammonia and 50-percent water will help cut through the grease. Be careful how much water you use on wood; even if it's painted, too much penetration of the latex paint can raise the grain. If you need something stronger, paint supply and hardware stores usually carry products specified as "wood cleaners" or "wax removers" that might be more effective and easy to use. Most manufacturers recommend you simply spray it on the cabinetry, let it agitate the dirt for a few minutes, and then wipe it off with a cotton cloth. As long as you're removing the hardware, consider replacing it with a more modern style of pulls and hinges. This can greatly update the look of kitchen cabinets, and it's much easier than repainting or refinishing them all.

Q. *I installed a 2-by-2-foot drywall patch into a ceiling, but it turns out the piece is too thin and has a "pushed in" look, compared to the original. The difference is about 1/8 inch. How I can fill the dip in the drywall?*

A. It's common for ceilings to utilize 5/8-inch drywall while the walls are 1/2 inch, which would account for the difference in thickness that you're experiencing in your ceiling patch. You have three options: Remove the patch and replace with 5/8-inch drywall; push out the patch from behind with furring strips; or, fill in the void with several thin coats of drywall compound. If you choose the latter, use a setting type compound for heavy fill coats. You can do a final skim coat with standard ready-mixed joint compound. **EHT**

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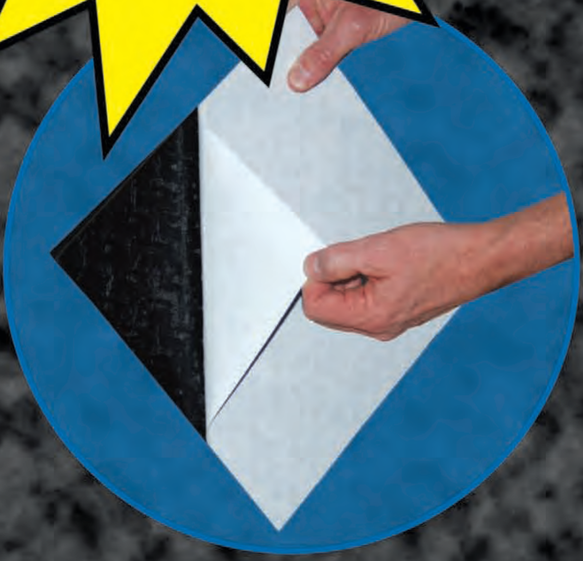

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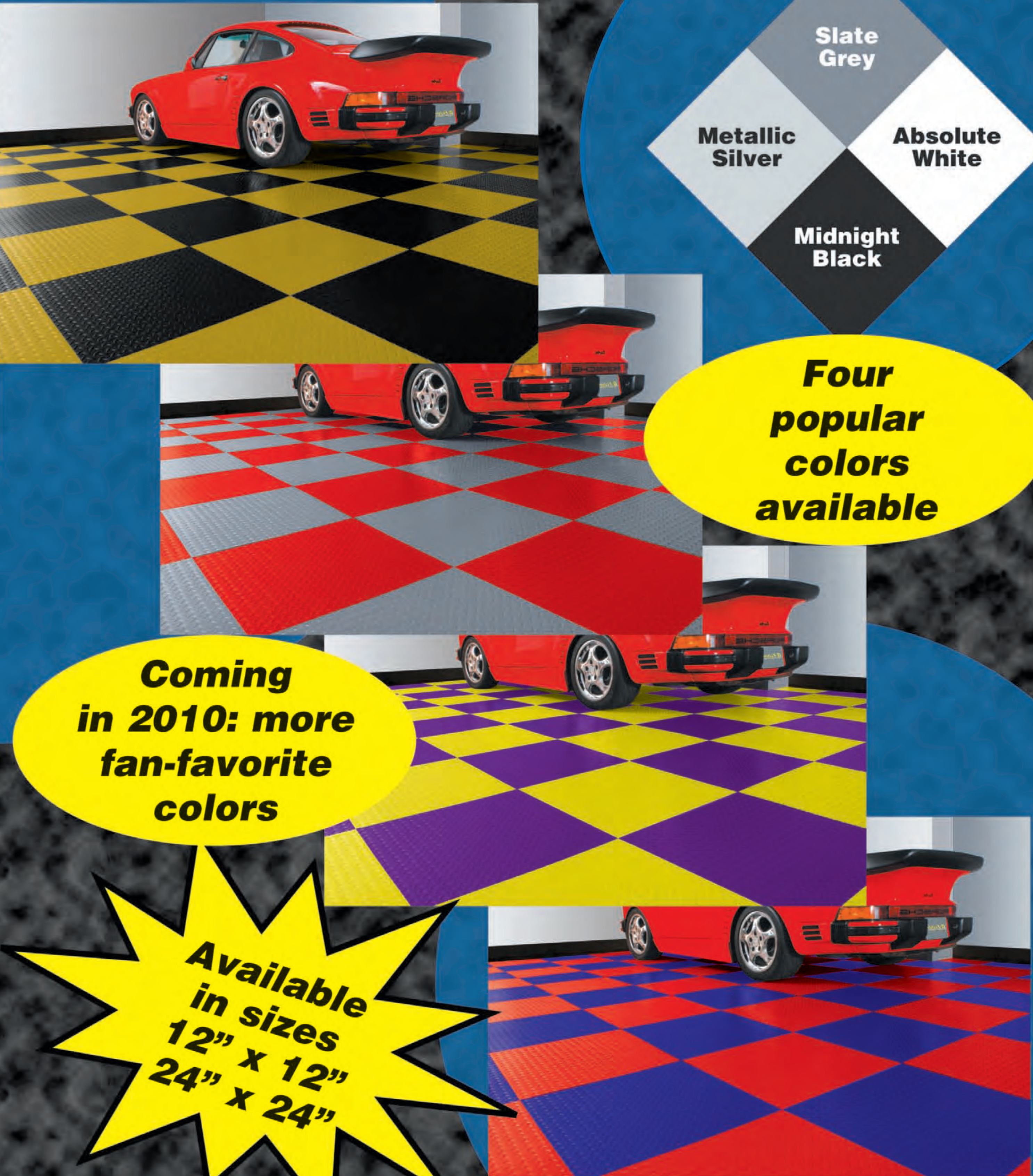

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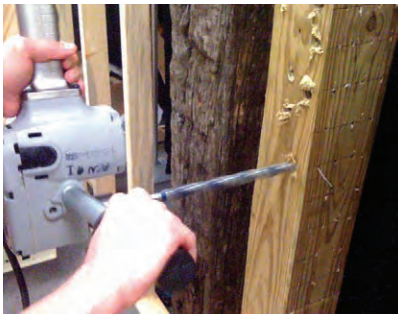
New Twists on Drill Bits

Equip your drill with the latest bit technology.

Shown to the left is the business end of the new Bosch Nailkiller auger bits.



The Nailkiller has a reinforced tip that pushes hidden nails to the side when the bit makes contact and allows a more aggressive part of the bit to cut through the fasteners.

By Matt Weber

Tradesmen and DIY'ers wouldn't get much accomplished without drill bits. There are many types of bits designed for all sorts of materials, hole sizes and quality of finish. From twist bits and brad-points to spades and tile bits, there is a specific bit for every job. In this article we highlight some recent innovations in bit technology and how they can make drilling tasks a little easier for the user.

THE NAILKILLER

A new milestone in the Bosch bit lineup is the lean, mean cutting machine called the Nailkiller. For the big boring jobs, sometimes the only thing that'll cut it is an auger bit. It takes a strong drill and a lot of torque to power an auger through a large wood post, and for most bits that can lead to a nasty and even dangerous kickback if the bit strikes a nail. Not for the Nailkiller. A couple of our staff members recently had the opportunity to test these bits at the Bosch facility outside Chicago, and they do indeed power through the toughest wood while actually pushing buried nails out of the way as the bit powers through the stock—all with minimal kickback. According to Bosch, the Nailkiller achieves 61-percent less impact on a nail hit than the competition, resulting in nine times the bit life—a real advantage for pros who run through costly auger bits on a regular basis.

STUBBY BITS

Drilling in cramped quarters is sometimes impossible without the right tool setup. Right-angle drills are the go-to tool for plumbers and electricians who routinely work around pipes and between studs where a larger drill may not have room to maneuver. The new Stubby Bits from Milescraft can make

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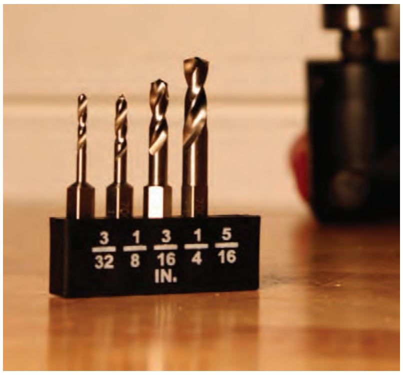
a right-angle or compact drill even more versatile by shortening the bit shank. These high-speed steel hex-shank bits fit standard 1/4-inch chucks and are available in sets from 1.9 to 2.32 inches in overall length. For long-lasting durability, the precision-ground Stubby Bits have no weak spot where the shaft is welded or crimped to the cutting area. Choose from two tip styles, brad-points or standard 135-degree tips.



The Stubby Bits from Milescraft allow extra room for drilling holes in confined spaces.

KIK BITS

When it comes to spade bits, the Kik Pro Series bit lineup from TG Tools offers an advantage that—to our knowledge—no other spade bit can claim. It is the unique ability to drill holes at a curve, changing direction easily during the drilling process. Engineered with 30 percent more cutting surface, the Kik spade bits result in faster boring and longer life than standard spades. Plus, the Kik bits eliminate the spur commonly found on similar bits, which allows these bits to

The Kik spade bits from TG Tools feature 30 percent more cutting surface and no spur, which allows them the unique ability to cut curved holes.

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☐ I want to drill clean, precise holes every time.
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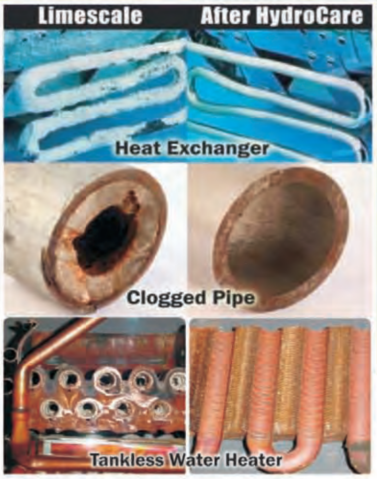

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Commissioned by the Water Quality Association to study the impact of limescale

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2. Tankless water heaters operating in hard water failed after 19 days of testing
3. Showerheads lost 75% of flow rate in 18 months
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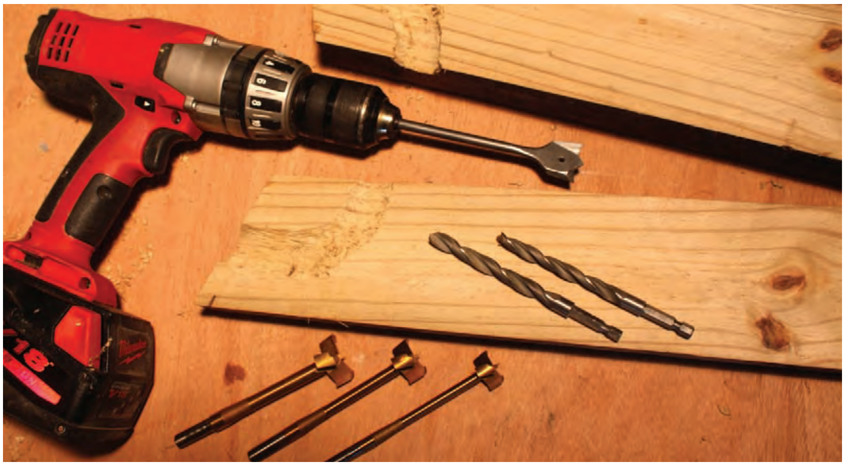
HydroCare sold by Wave Home Solutions alter the drilling trajectory for curved holes. This ability makes many tricky tasks easier for plumbing and electrical installations. Furthermore, since the bit keeps spinning at varying angles, it never binds and stalls in the hole, which is a common problem with spurred spade bits.

Similar engineering increases the cutting edges in TG Tools' Kik brad-points and Forstner bits. The Kik brad-points are tipped with six cutting edges for 20-percent more cutting surface when compared to standard brad-points. This means faster, cleaner and longer-lasting drilling due to decreased wear. In fact,



The Brad-points and Forstner Bits in the Kik lineup are also engineered with additional cutting surfaces. Like the spade bits, this advanced design allows the Forstners to cut curved holes and channels.

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the tip cuts so aggressively that an extraction ridge was engineered inside the flutes for quick material removal and reduced heat buildup.

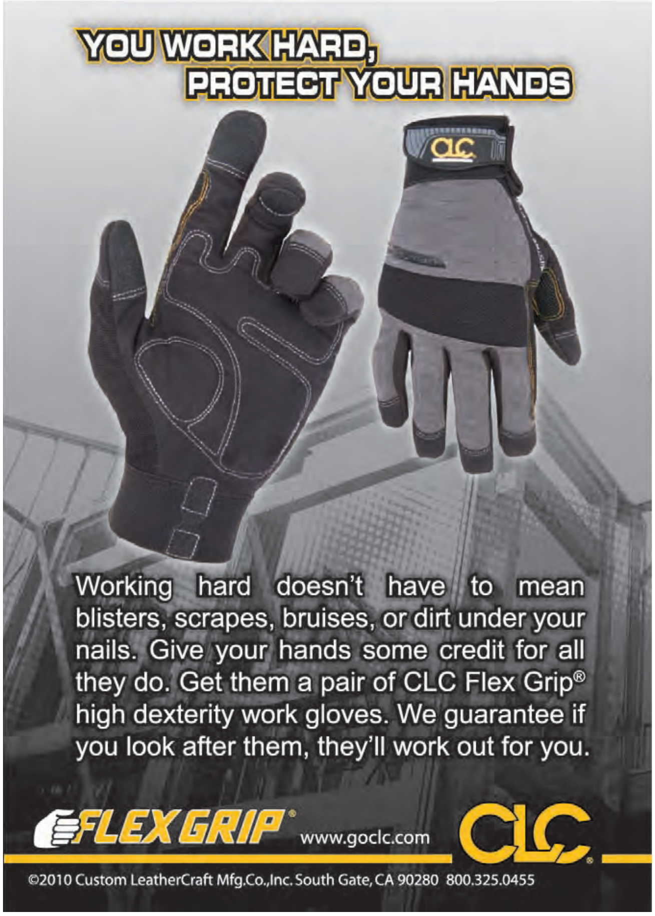
The Forstner bits from TG Tools actually have nine cutting edges, which, like the spades, permit cutting curved paths, channels, routing and milling in wood and plastics. The TG Tools Forstner bit set also comes in a handsome, dovetailed wooden box to “class up” your workshop.

BOSCH DAREDEVILS

If you have a need for speed, the Bosch Daredevils are the fastest spade bits for straight-line drilling that our staff has come across. With a self-starting tip and a spurred cutting edge, these bits fly through wood with

3/8
1/2
5/8
3/4
7/8
1

The Bosch Daredevils are the fastest straight-line drilling spades around.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The threaded self-starting tip of the Daredevils can hold a drill in the hole in case you need to free your hands.

ease, requiring less pressure to drill and leaving a surprisingly clean cut—not typical for spade bits. The hex-shanks provide a good, solid grip in a 1/4-inch chuck, and a contoured paddle design assists with chip removal. Another neat feature about the Daredevils threaded tip is that—even when upside-down—the bit will grab the wood with enough strength to hold a drill in place, in case you need to stop, let go and resituate.

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IRWIN BOLT EXTRACTORS

Okay, so Irwin's Bolt Extractors aren't technically drill bits. I'm going to shoehorn them into this article anyway, because they're very cool. Few things are quite as frustrating as a steady flow of work coming to a screeching halt because you have to address a stripped bolt that must be removed. The Bolt Extractors are sockets for a wrench that feature reverse spiral flutes designed to bite into rounded-off bolts and break them free. They also work for heavily painted bolts and those that are rusted tight. Irwin's "universal lobular" design fits all types of fasteners, and the high-carbon steel construction provides the strength for a long tool life. The Bolt Extractors are

Irwin's Bolt Extractors can free those pesky stuck fasteners that slow down your work.

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Drill Doctor 350X

Available in a variety of models, the Drill Doctor can sharpen a large range of dull or broken drill bits with precision in less than 60 seconds, including standard-twist bits, high speed steel, carbide, cobalt and TiN-coated.

made for a 3/8-inch square drive for use with hand ratchets, impact wrenches and air ratchets.

DRILL DOCTOR

Drill Doctor is known as the best drill bit sharpener on the market to keep your bits razor sharp and ready for action. With just a few easy turns of the patented dual cam sharpener in the Drill Doctor 750X, you can restore the cutting edge of your bits to full force. The 750X sharpens variable point angles from 118 to 135 degrees, and you can even customize an angle from 115 to 140. The more streamlined model 350X simplifies the process for hobbyists and DIY'ers with on-chuck alignment which eliminates the alignment port for easier sharpening. Using a replaceable diamond wheel, the 350X sharpens 3/32- to 1/2-inch bits to a 118-degree point angle.

New to the Drill Doctor lineup is the Drill Doctor SB—a precision machine that sharpens both spade and twist bits. The spade bit module uses an industrial-grade profiled, vitrified wheel to sharpen spade bits from 1/4 to 1-1/2 inch, including specialty spade bits with screw points and spurs.

BOSCH THIN-METAL HOLE SAW

For super-simple circular cuts in thin metal, Bosch's new 1-inch thin metal hole saw does the job in seconds. Ideal for making quick punch-outs for wires in metal electrical boxes, the 1/4-inch hex-shank hole saw pops into any standard drill chuck guided by a centering pilot bit to cut a perfectly round 1-inch hole in thin sheet metal. The spring-loaded pilot bit then ejects the metal cut-out so you

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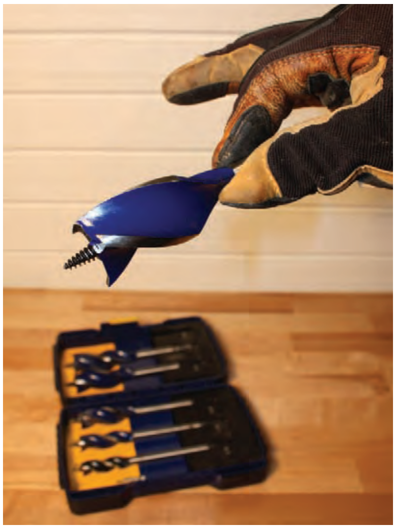
This 1" spring-loaded hole saw from Bosch is great for quick, round cut-outs in thin sheet metal.

don't have to dig it out of the hole saw with a nail or screwdriver. There's also a handy depth-stopping ridge around the cutting edge to prevent breakthrough and protect the work surface.

IRWIN SPEEDBOR MAX

The fastest wood-boring bits in Irwin's product line are the Speedbor Max spade bits. Irwin calls them spade bits, even though they look nothing like any other spade bit we've seen. In lieu of the traditional paddle design, Irwin incorporates three twisted flutes to help extract chips to clear the hole for faster cutting. The bits are piloted by a full screw tip for self-feeding action, and the cutting spurs have three cutting edges to add durability to the bit. The hex-shaped shanks fit standard 1/4-inch quick-change chucks so there's no slippage during operation. The bits are available separately or in a hard-cased set of six from 1/2- to 1-1/4-inch diameter. **EHT**



In lieu of the traditional paddle design, Irwin's Speedbor Max spade bits incorporate three twisted flutes to help extract chips for faster cutting.

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DRY IT UP

Solving Basement Water Problems

By Monte Burch

Damp or flooding basements are a common homeowner problem. You can't do much about catastrophic flooding, but most dampness or water seepage problems can be solved.

From East to West, North to South, flooding has been a major problem across much of the United States. You can't do much about major catastrophic floods, but you can solve many basement flooding or dampness problems. First, determine if the moisture is simply dampness caused by condensation or if water is seeping inward. Some problems are a simple fix, others require major work. In examining the problem, look for sources of water, water containment and water drainage.

To check for condensation, use duct tape to fasten a piece of aluminum foil to the basement wall that typically has dampness. Make sure the foil is taped solidly in place around all four edges. Wait a couple of days and then check the foil for moisture. If moisture is present on the outside of the foil, the problem is condensation and installing a dehumidifier will do the trick. If moisture is on the inside of the foil facing the wall, then seepage is the problem.

If you only have water in your basement after heavy rains or snow melts, the most common source of water intrusion is at the crack between the basement walls and floor, although cracks in the floor

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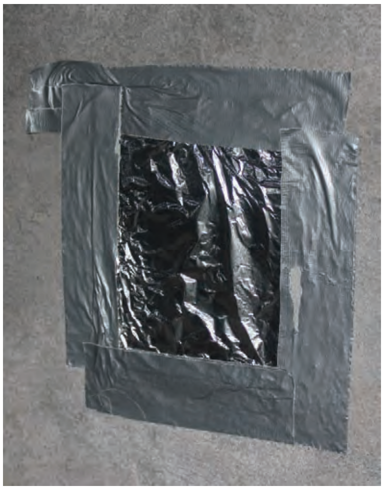

First step is to determine whether the moisture is from condensation or seepage. Tape a piece of aluminum foil to the basement wall, leave for a few days and check the back and front for moisture.

Water accumulation against the foundation wall can seep into the basement. Clogged gutters and downspouts are often the problem. Products like The Spout-Off make it easy to clean downspouts from the ground.

can also be a source—as can cracks in the walls, or around openings for pipes. When an excess of water builds up against the basement foundation, hydrostatic pressure forces the water into the basement. In this case, the first step is to eliminate the source. Two common problems create excess water around the basement foundation—faulty guttering (or no guttering) and poor ground slope around the building.

GUTTERS ARE KEY

Check the guttering and repair, replace or install gutters where needed. If the building has trees hanging over the roof where leaves and twigs can collect in the gutter, use gutter guards to keep out debris. And,

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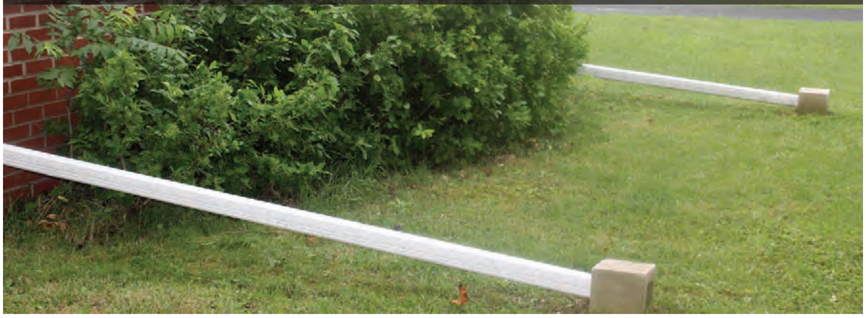
keep the gutters clean. You might wish to check into Rainhandler (www.rainhandler.com), a self-cleaning gutter system that eliminates clogged, over-flowing gutters and downspouts. For more information on gutter repair installations, check out the free online articles at www.extremehowto.com.

Effective downspouts are also important. Another product, called The SpoutOff, makes it easy to clean one-, two- and even three-story downspouts from the ground (www.thespoutoff.com). Concrete, plastic or even wooden splash blocks should be installed at the bottoms of downspouts at a slope of one inch per foot to direct water away from the foundation. In areas with flatter grades, the downspouts should ideally discharge rain water eight feet from the foundation. This can be achieved in a number of ways. Some systems utilize above-ground dispersal, others in-ground. The latter are the least obtrusive, but the most expensive. One alternative that is regaining popularity these days is the old-fashioned rain barrel. With everyone going "green," collecting rooftop rain for gardening and other watering chores has become popular. Check out www.simplyrainbarrels.com.



Splash blocks or other means of directing water away from the foundation can also be a great help. In this case the homeowner utilized extended gutters to direct water away from a house with a poor grade. There are, of course, less obtrusive options to employ.

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GET A GOOD GRADE

The second most common problem is a poor grade. Ideally, the lawn or grade should slope away from the house, as should any attachments, such as concrete patios, walkways, and so forth. The slope should be about one inch per foot on lawns, with the slope extending at least 10 feet from the building. A common problem with older homes and even some new ones is that the ground settles, allowing the surface to slope back toward the foundation. Rebuilding the slope is the best answer for serious problems, but can be costly, and the heavy construction equipment may do more damage than good. Keep the lawn well seeded to prevent the soil washing away or back against the building. If grading the slope, the best choice is to sod the area. If a large area of watershed slopes toward the building, you may need to intercept the drainage and redirect it away from the building. This can be done with open ditching that is sodded or seeded with grass or “French drains,” which are basically rock-filled ditches. In some instances, you may need to install drainage tiles with concrete catch basins in low areas.

Other easy-fix problems include trimming dense shrubbery to allow the soil around the foundation to dry quicker. Basement window wells can also cause a problem. Unprotected windows can allow water entry, and window wells can collect water allowing the excess to seep into surrounding areas. Any windows below ground level should be protected with metal or masonry walls or wells. The well bottoms should have at least a foot of coarse gravel to allow for drainage. Clear plastic bubbles installed over the wells can also help. Since 2000, the International Building Code says every basement bedroom or living room must have at least one emergency exit. A number of window well systems are available that not only provides light and ventilation when the window is open,

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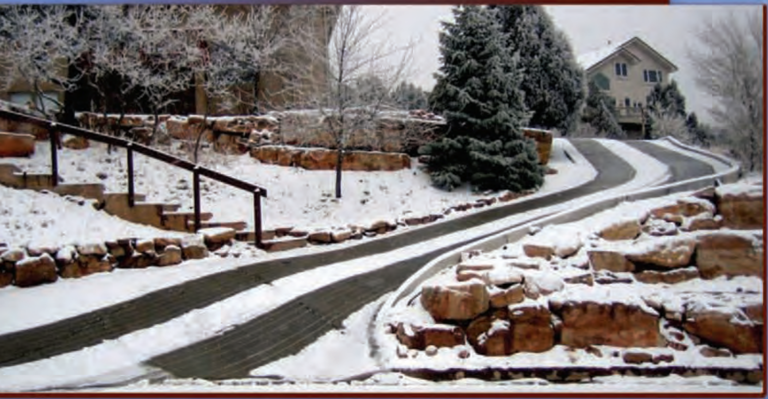

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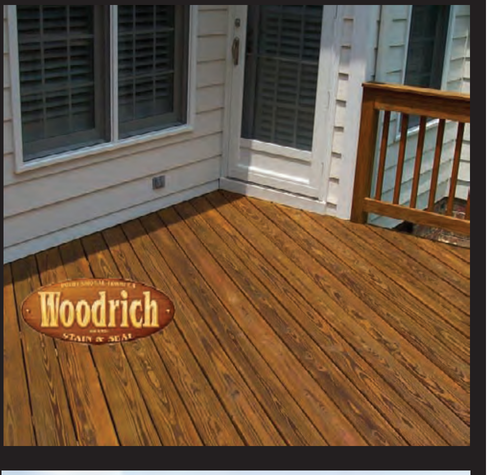

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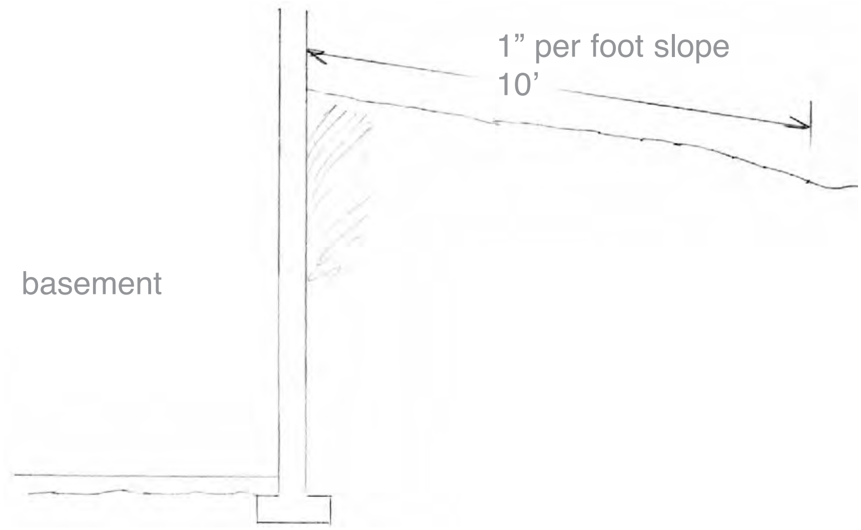

Another very common problem is a poor grade. A slope of at least one-inch per foot should extend from the foundation for about 10 feet.

but meets the escape window requirement. Check www.redi-exit.com and www.wellcraft.com for more information about these products.

WATERPROOFING BARRIERS

A waterproofing barrier may be applied to the exterior, interior or both. Typically the exterior is applied upon construction of the building, the interior after water problems have developed. These products vary in effectiveness, depending on the amount of water accumulation, source of accumulation, type of soil, foundation construction and so forth. They are not especially effective on water penetration at the footer or floor and wall joints.

Although some contractors may suggest digging down to the

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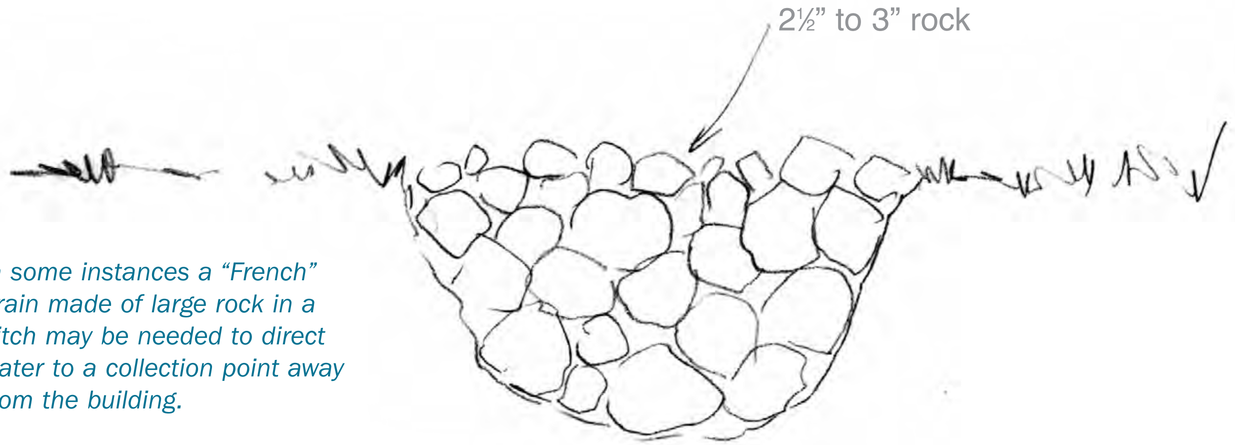
footing level, installing a gravel or tile drain and draining the water away, this can be quite expensive and a great hassle, and can even create possible problems with structural soundness.

One alternative is to use an interior drainage system, along the joint between the walls and floor. One method commonly used is to break up the floor around the basement floor/wall perimeter in about a 12-inch wide band. Then, remove the soil down to the bottom edge of the footing. Install perforated drain tile in a bed of 1-1/2-inch rock. The tile carries the water to a discharge area such as a sump pump or drain pipe, taking the water away from the house. If the walls are hollow block, holes must be drilled in the blocks to allow water to drain out of them



In some instances a "French" drain made of large rock in a ditch may be needed to direct water to a collection point away from the building.

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as well. At best this is a messy chore, with lots of dust in the house, and you must haul all of the debris out of the basement. This is more commonly a contractor job, and it's extremely important to hire a reputable contractor. Check their references.

An alternative and a very simple and effective solution is the baseboard system. This system utilizes a hollow plastic baseboard installed around the perimeter of the wall/floor joint. Water that comes in the joint is collected and directed to a floor drain or sump pump. If the walls are concrete block, weep holes are bored at the floor/wall joints. This is quite often also a contractor job, although do-it-yourself kits are also available. Drainaway Waterproofing offers DIY basement waterproofing kits that

Water can also collect around and wash into window wells. Keep window wells clean and free of debris. A foot layer of coarse rock also helps drainage.

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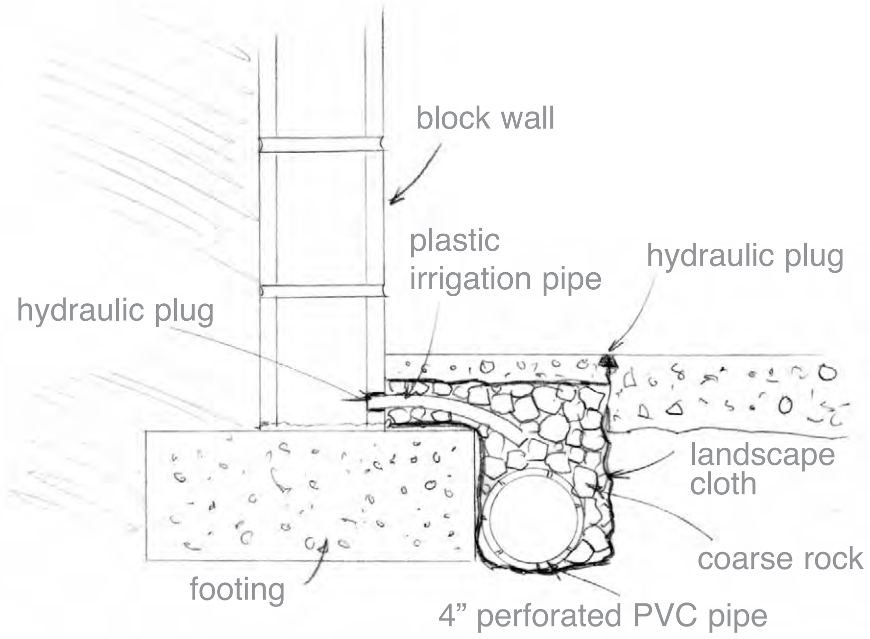
block wall
plastic irrigation pipe
hydraulic plug
hydraulic plug
landscape cloth
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For serious wall/floor problems you may need to install a drain system around the perimeter of the wall.

can be used with block or concrete walls, finished or unfinished basements (www.drainawaywaterproofing.com).

If the leakage is due to wall cracks, or occasional capillary action, a capillary waterproofing compound applied to the interior walls can usually solve the problem. Several products include Drylok, Kilz Masonry Waterproofing Paint and a number of products from Thoroseal and Quikrete. A capillary waterproofing compound, such as UGL’s Drylok, works by capillary action, penetrating the tiny pores in the masonry. It expands as it dries to form a tough, waterproof barrier. These waterproofers are formulated to withstand hydrostatic pressure of 10 psi, which is equivalent to water pressure

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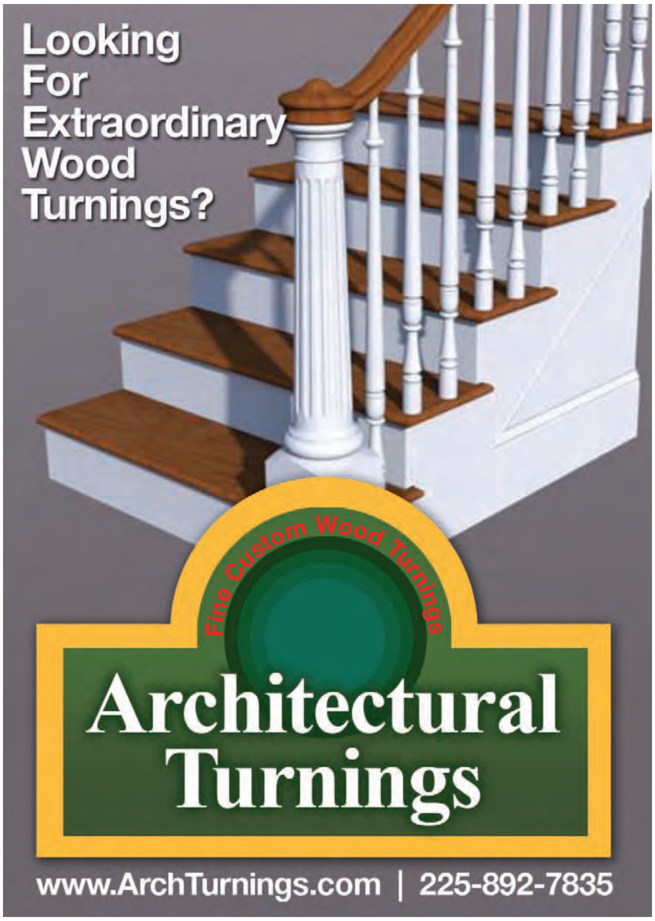
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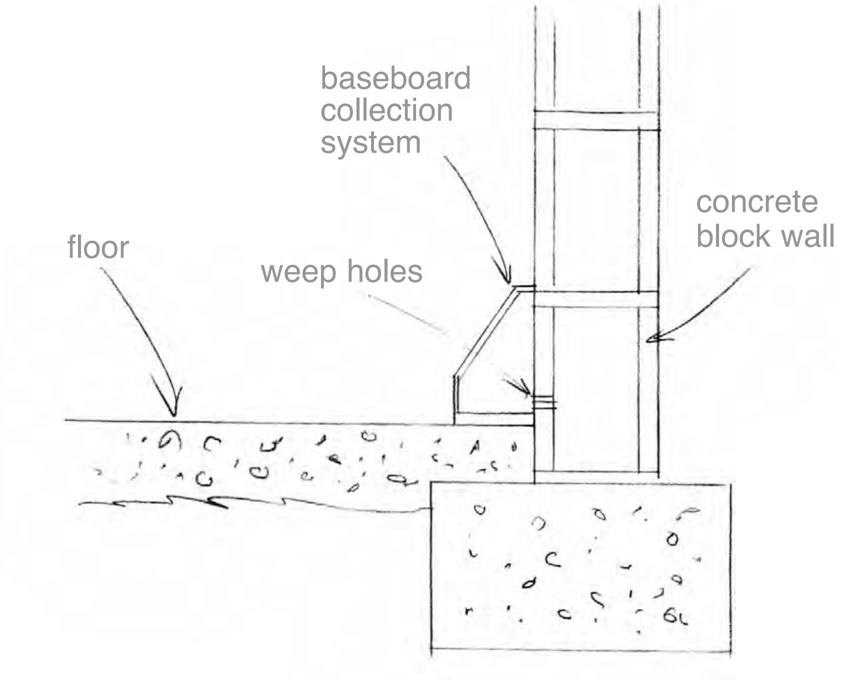
at a depth of 22 feet (1,440 pounds per square foot). Drylok is available in three formulas: latex base, oil base and powdered. Ordinary paint, although it will adhere to the concrete, is forced off by the water pressure.

Before application of Drylok waterproofing paint, a hydraulic cement, such as Drylok Fast Plug should be used to fill holes and cracks. This fast-setting hydraulic cement patches holes even where water is actively flowing through them. Back-chisel out the area to be patched to the shape of an inverted "V". This allows the patch to lock into the surface. Wet down the area prior to patching to help the Fast Plug cure properly. Mix only enough patch that can be used in three to five minutes. You can also help seal the floor/wall



A simple alternative is a baseboard water containment system that channels water to a sump pump or drain.

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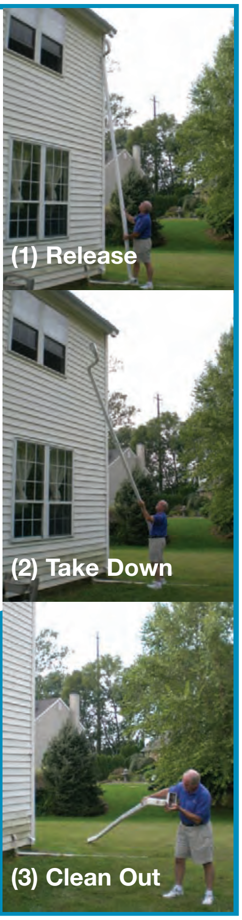

joint against minor leakage. Clean the area thoroughly, wet down with water and apply Fast Plug to fill any gaps between walls and floor. As with any painting project, surface preparation is the most important step in applying a masonry waterproofer. All old paint must be removed by wire-brushing, sandblasting or by using other suitable means. Drylok is warranted over bare masonry only. Clean the surface thoroughly with a wire brush to remove all loose and broken mortar, dirt, dust and efflorescence (salt deposits) from all surfaces to be painted. Treat efflorescence by washing with a solution of Drylok Etch or muriatic acid, according to the manufacturer's directions. Rinse thoroughly with water and

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If leakage is due to capillary action, a capillary waterproofing compound can be applied. Walls must be cleaned of all dirt, debris, efflorescence and paint.

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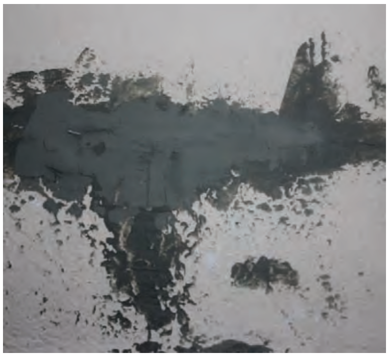
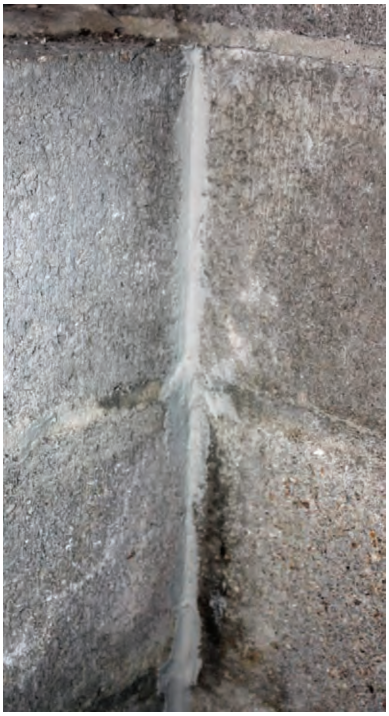
allow to dry. Apply a coat of Drylok with a stiff bristle brush, working the compound thoroughly into the pores of the masonry. After using the first gallon, measure the area covered. It should be about 75 to 100 square feet. This thick-bodied masonry paint is formulated to provide a waterproof barrier and is not intended to be spread thin like regular paint. Two coats are required to ensure warranted waterproofing. The second coat can be applied by brush or masonry roller. If seepage is still present after several days, apply an additional coat in those areas.

The final step is to install a sump pump to remove excess



First step is to clean around the crack area, then chip out the crack, mix and apply only a small amount at a time.



Joints between walls and walls and floor can also be patched with hydraulic cement

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Expanding foam can also be used to fill in larger openings around pipes.

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The capillary paint is applied with a stiff bristle brush.

water from basements. This is often a crucial line of defense against water seepage and flooding. If you're in an area with severe storms and power outages, consider a battery-powered sump pump. If the primary pump shuts down, the battery power kicks in. When the power comes back on, the battery power stops. Keep the pump maintained. Check it at least once a year, cleaning out debris and cleaning the screen or in-flow area. A sump-pump alarm is also a good idea, especially for finished basements. It detects water in the sump before flooding occurs and gives out an alarm, indicating the pump isn't working properly. **EHT**

In many instances a sump pump may also be needed.

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BUILDING WITH

Fences are game-changers—for both homeowners and their neighbors. Here's an alternative to the traditional wooden fence.

An alternative to an all-wood fence is one built from composite material, taking a cue from recent trends in the deck-building industry. The material featured in this article is called FenceScape, and it's actually manufactured by TimberTech, a popular manufacturer of composite and PVC decking. Like synthetic decking, this composite fence material offers two major selling points: longevity and low-maintenance.

And, the benefits of composite material don't end there. With its integrated color, no painting, staining or sealing is required. Importantly, this means no repainting or re-staining down the road. The material won't split, warp, crack, splinter or succumb to termite damage. Furthermore, FenceScape features UV-inhibiting pigments so fading will be minimal.

The fence boards feature a natural wood pattern along with the same versatility of design as real wood. It works like wood, requiring no special tools or fasteners, and the fence can follow the contour of the terrain for safe containment of the family pet.

My FenceScape project is a 6 foot, three-rail privacy fence running 18 panels long. It strikes a line between three urban back yards. Each end-panel swoops to an elegant and friendly finish.

FENCESCAPE

By Mark Clement

BUILDING WITH FENCESCAPE

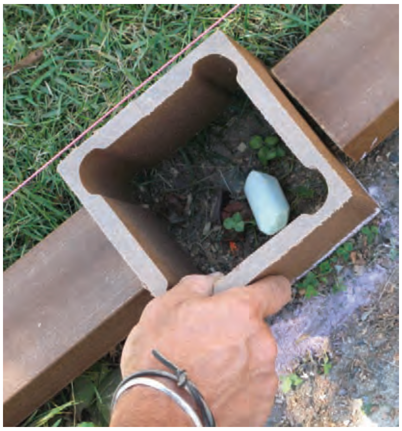
STEP 1: LAYOUT

I mapped this fence run from control-post to a stake because it ended at an imaginary line between two houses, but I wanted the string to run all the way to the property line to ensure accuracy.

Clement Carpentry Tip: Use a carpenters pencil as a spool to play out the string. If you plan to re-use the string, roll it back up carefully.

Because FenceScape posts are hollow I used the fence parts for layout; not the U-jig I usually employ with wood fences. To mark the post-hole centers, I dropped brightly colored kid's driveway chalk into the center of the post cut-off that I was using as a template.

If you're going to re-use string, make sure to coil it back up carefully. Jeeze!



The hollow composite posts make full-size templates of the layout easier. I marked the center of the post with brightly colored kids' driveway chalk.

STEP 2: POSTS & RAILS

Install post heights wild. You can trim them to size later.

I rented a Dingo because I can maneuver the Dingo's auger to pinpoint layout. This is a huge time-saver compared to manually digging the post holes.

Since I used a 12-inch auger there's fudge factor to shift the post. Before setting the post, tamp the soft earth in the bottom of the hole with a digging bar.

The hollow posts are easier to move than solid posts. Once I got them located and plumb, pouring in 4 inches of gravel traps them in place.

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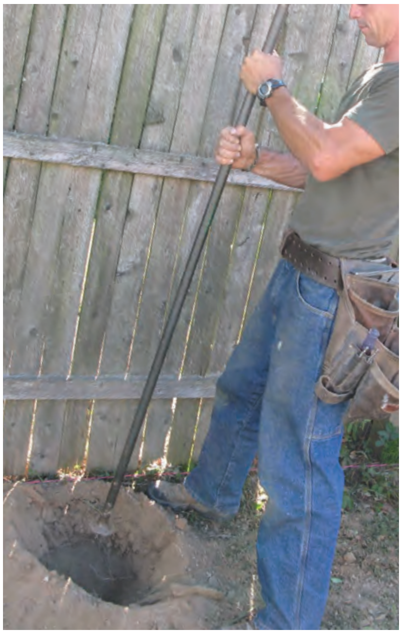
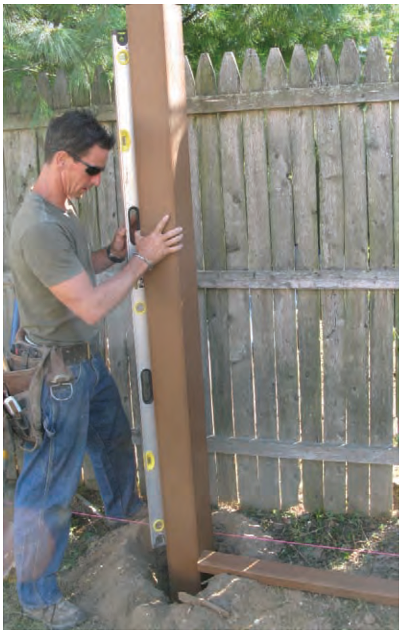
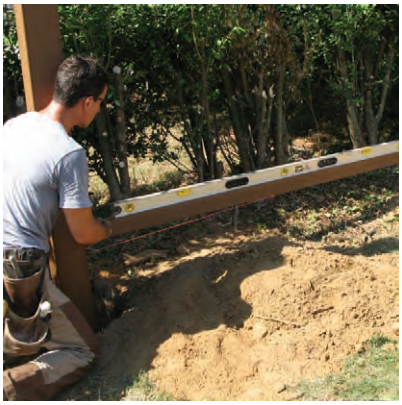


Tamp the soft earth with the blunt end of a digging bar.



Set the post in the hole. Use rail stock as a gauge-stick and plumb both faces of the post.

Using FenceScape's powder-coated brackets, I fastened the bottom rails on layout—on the high post, 8 inches up from grade. I pocket the rail, level it over and install the other end on the low-side post. The top rails



Set the rail layout on the high side then level over to the low side, mark the post and set the bracket.

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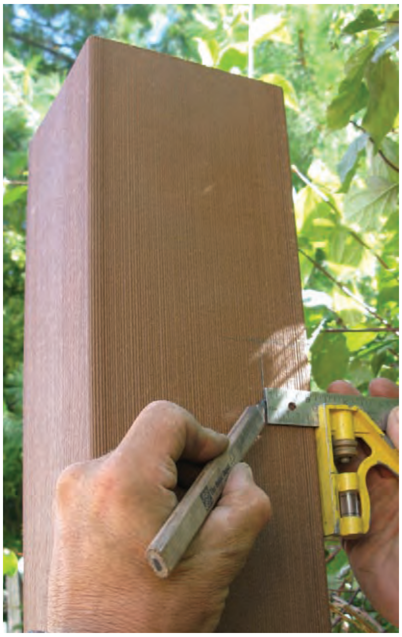

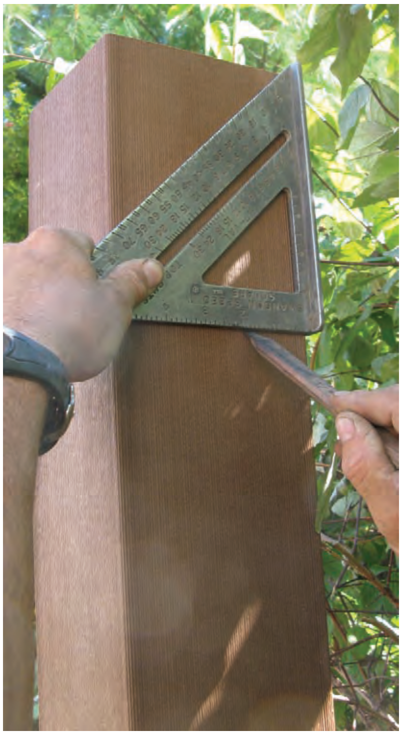

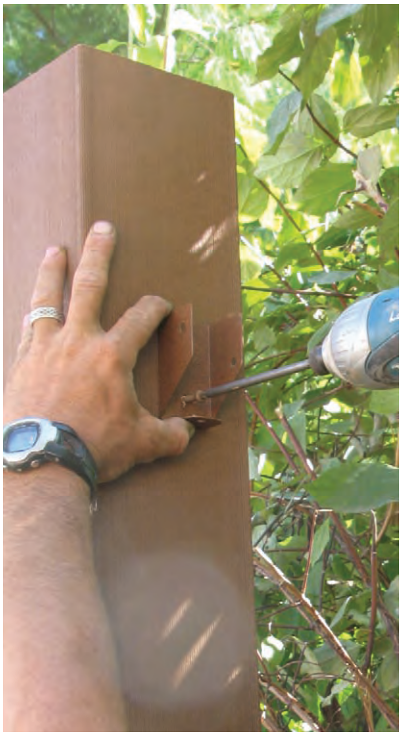

Mark the post height, mark the rail location and install the rail bracket. Or, use cleats as in a wood fence.

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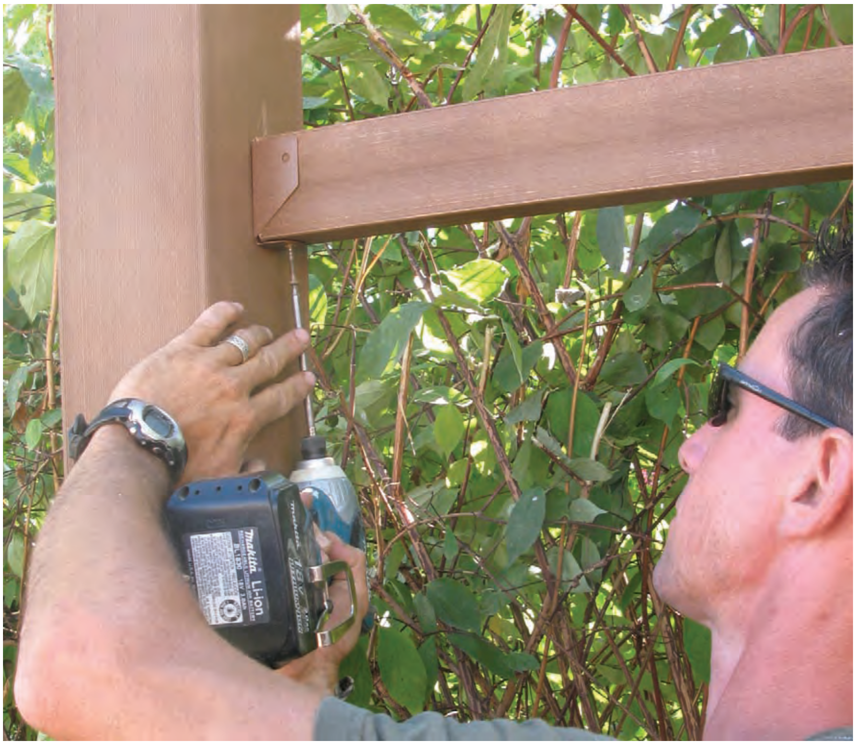

come next—66 inches up from the bottom of the bottom rail. Use a rafter square and combination to square to layout the rail bracket location then install the bracket. Installing the top rail further secures the posts for the application of concrete, which I mix and pour from a wheelbarrow—quickly spraying off any over-pour.

Once the concrete is dry I backfill and tamp the holes, compacting the earth every 8 inches or so.

Crown the rail stock and install with the crown up. Fasten with screws. I liked 1-1/2” Grip-Rite composite decking screws for this application.

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Plastic & attractive wood cabinet	Most major competitors cabinets are plastic or have plastic fronts where the heat exhausts	All Wood Cabinet - including remote and fireplace models
WARRANTY		
Three Year Warranty	Read the warranty. Most parts are limited to one year by some competitors	Three year bumper to bumper backed by a fifty-five year old Nebraska Company
HEAT		
More heat	Some have no copper at all. Others only 5.9 to 12 oz. therefore they cannot produce as much heat or hold it as long as the SUNHEAT which makes competitor's models less efficient	24 oz. copper acting as a heat sink produces more heat than any other 1500 watt infrared heater
FAN		
Fan twice as quiet as competitor	None twice as quiet - one is 8 decibels quieter, most have a life expectancy of only 20,000 hours	Quiet fan with sealed ball bearings with an incredible 80,000 hour life expectancy
HEAT TUBES		
20,000 hours	Wiring is very thin with life expectancy approx. 5000 hours. Some heaters have only been on the market one year or less.	6000 plus hours with heavy duty wiring and a three year guarantee easily replaceable by owner
QUALITY		
Good Quality	Electronics located close to heat exhaust with light wiring. Contracted out on a low bid basis to factories that do not specialize in building infrared heaters. For most, this is their first season of building infrared heaters and they are not quality controlled inspected in the U.S.	No electronics close to heat exhaust. All high quality heavy duty components and parts. Designed, engineered and guaranteed by a fifty-five year old Nebraska Company. Built in our own factory under watchful eyes and every heater is inspected in the U.S. by trained quality control inspectors

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Drop 4 inches of gravel into the hole, then mix and pour concrete. Be ready with a garden hose to spray off any spillage.

Next: Post cuts. I stepped these posts 4 inches above the top rail on the high side, marked and cut them with an 8-1/4-inch worm drive.

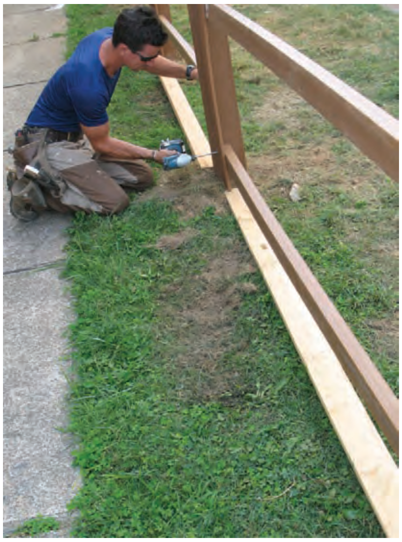
Cut the last post to height. An 8 1/4" circ saw like this Skil worm-drive makes quicker work of this because you can make the cut in two passes.

STEP 3: MIDDLE RAILS AND PICKETS

I installed the middle rail off-center—30 inches above the bottom rail—for a cool look. The FenceScape 2-by rails remain rigid via an internal steel mesh but they cut easily with standard circ saw blades. Take note: They're crowned—or bent—so eye-ball them and install the crown up, like an arch. Store the rails as flat as possible before installing.

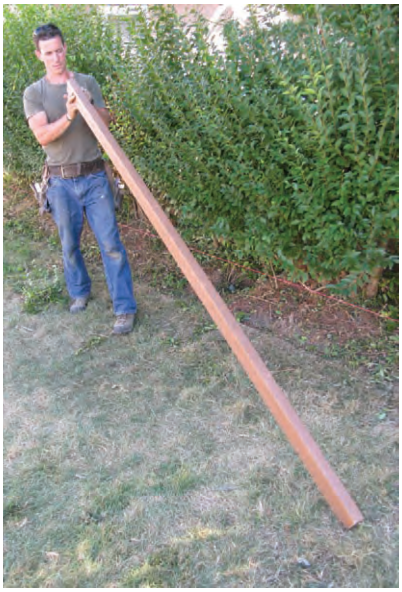
While the FenceScape manufacturer recommends using screws, 1/2-inch crown staples, 1-1/2-inch ring shank nails or screws, I selected screws. I liked Grip-Rite's 1-5/8 inch composite screw which eliminates the "mushrooming" common with fasteners in composite material, and it blends with the FenceScape's color. It worked for the brackets, too, with the washer-head set flat. Undeniably, however, using staples would save hours.

When installing the pickets, or "slats," I gang-cut them all at once. I typically employ a 2x4 spacer under my slats to allow a 1-1/2-inch weed-whacker gap—this is something I like as a homeowner and something my inspector likes to see, too.



I use a 2-by on the flat as a spacer to create a weed-whacker gap at the bottom of the fence. Also, I cut the first two slats to length and install. The rest I install wild until the last two, which are also cut to fit.

Because the posts are proud of the rails, you have to install the first two slats to fit. Then install the rest wild—until the



last two. Again, because of the posts, they are cut to fit. The last slat gets ripped to fit.

When it's time to trim the wild boards, you can gang-cut the slats from either side of the fence.

STEP 4: TRIM PIECES

For a completed look, FenceScape says you can pop their post caps on with a finish nailer, but I found them a little too brittle. A few dabs of Phenoseal on the underside is actually easier anyway, then just lay them on.

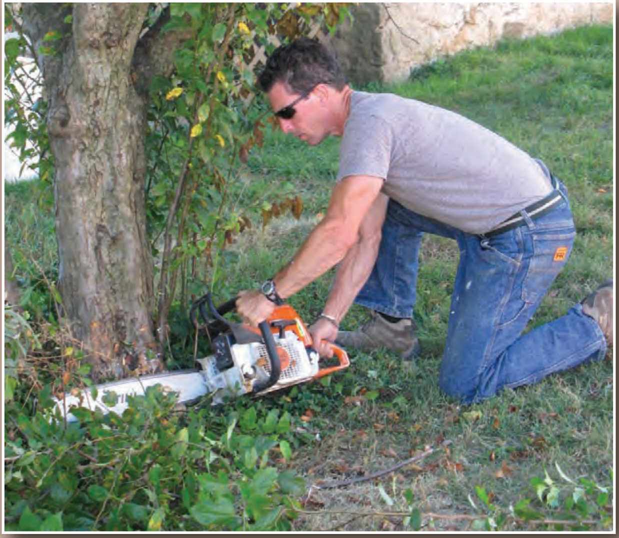
The FenceScape system also

Cut wild slats to length, then cap with trim pieces.

Use adhesive (like Phenoseal) and set the post caps.

TOOLS

If you think you'll only be using a few carpentry tools—make sure your landscape stuff is gassed up, anyway. I couldn't get by without my chainsaw, string trimmer, pruners, recip saw, gasoline-powered blower and two different rakes—and remodeling tools like a recip saw and cordless chipping hammer to zap out some asphalt that was paved past the property line. And, a buried concrete blob needed to be chipped away to make room for a new post.



Fences are about 90% carpentry but to leap all the hurdles a fence site throws at you, its best to be ready with your landscape stuff, too. My chain saw was the best tool for clearing this underbrush.

In another instance of "be-ready-with-your-landscape-stuff," pruners save the day cutting roots out of this hole

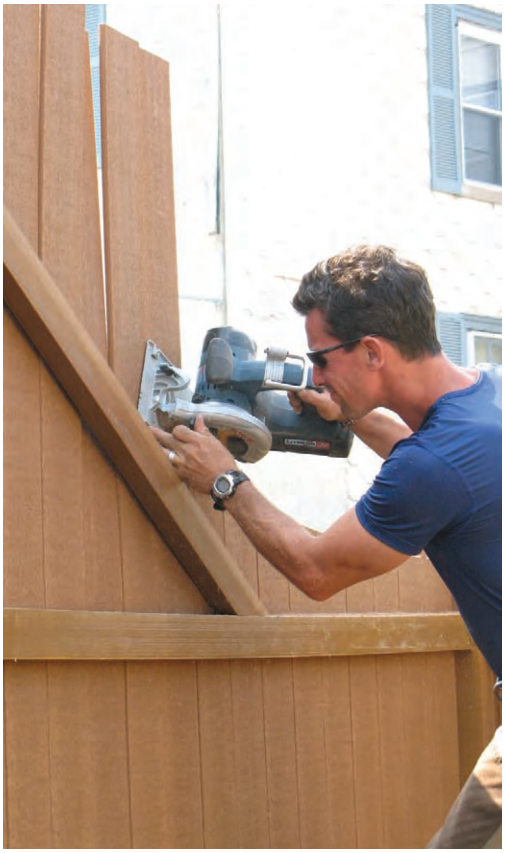
This one from the "nothing's ever easy department": The edge of the driveway was under a fence post. Alas, my cordless chipping hammer made quick work of the asphalt.

features slat and rail caps. Trim the slat tops with FenceScape's nominal 1x4 piece, then cover that and the rail with a second 1x4.

Layout Note: The rails were 96 inches, but the 1x4 stock is shorter. Double-check these elements against each other before building for tighter tolerances in the end.

STEP 5: SWOOP ON IN

For a decorative arc, plotting the cutline is a snap. After setting my last post—a 48 incher—and slats, all I do is flex some 1x4 between two points on the high and low side, eye-ball the most graceful curve, then trace it. Note: I start the arc one full,



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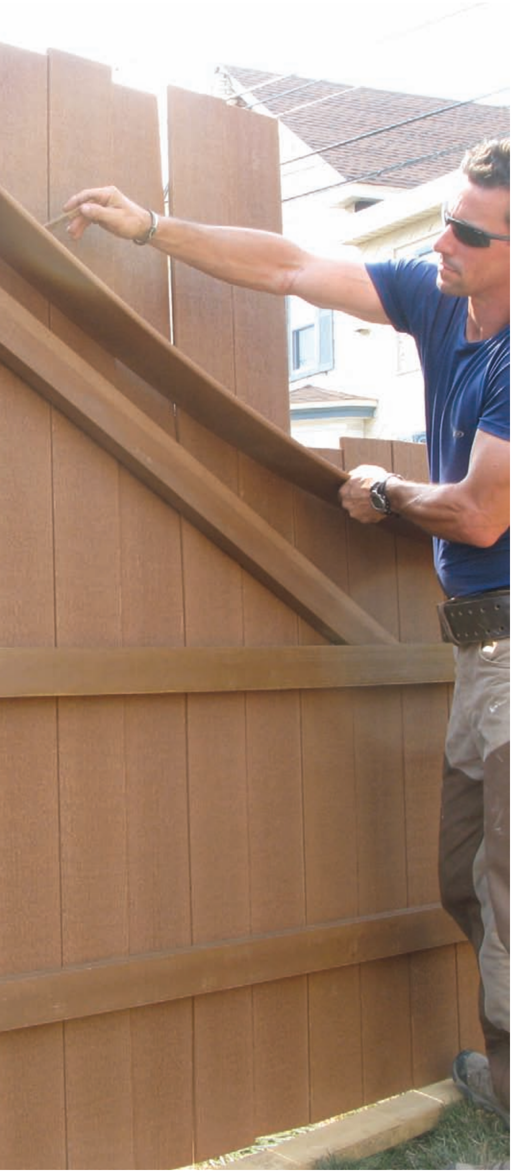
square board inward from the high side to give the saw room to travel. I install an angle brace to support the slats then set my circ saw about 3/4 inch depth of cut and follow the line.

The result is a cool-looking fence that will last years with minimal upkeep. **EHT**



Bend a piece of composite to locate the swoop and trace it. I always start the bend, one full board in from the end to give the saw room to cut. Then I set the saw just past the depth of the material and cut.

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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

As the weather begins to cool off, here's a look at some outdoor products to help enhance your yard without all the heat.

The summer may be the best time to relax in your backyard, throw some meat on the grill and enjoy your deck or patio. But the fall is the best time to work on them, because it's not so sweltering hot. Here's a quick roundup of some products and materials that might help you enhance and maintain your outdoor living space.

BAMBOO DOORS FOR OUTDOOR KITCHENS

If you're planning a major outdoor overhaul, consider the new bamboo doors and drawer heads for exterior kitchens from Atlantis Outdoor Kitchens. Atlantis is the first outdoor cabinet company to use bamboo, selected for its beauty, durability and sustainability. The new bamboo doors and drawer heads will contribute to credits under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® rating system. The bamboo used for Atlantis doors and drawer heads is selected at the peak of maturity and strength for ultimate longevity and trouble-free maintenance. Atlantis Outdoor Kitchens offers nine different door styles (six Perma Panel and three teak, cypress or bamboo wood designs). Real wood doors are easily maintained with natural oils while the Perma Panel doors

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can be rinsed clean with a garden hose and light scrubbing. Each kitchen contains a Perma Panel base that is virtually indestructible and stands up to harsh elements. For more information, visit www.outdoorkitchensbyatlantis.com. Outdoor kitchens start around $5,500.

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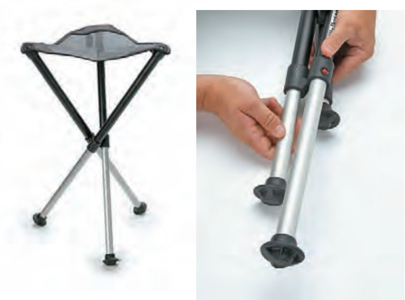
Sometimes it is critical to maintain running water outdoors in cold weather, but that can run the risk of freezing pipes and hoses. The solution is the Heated Hose available from Lee Valley Tools. Used in agriculture to supply water to outbuildings, the tough reinforced PVC hose has a series of heating cables embedded in the hose wall to keep water flowing in temperatures as low as -42 degrees F (-41 C). A built-in thermostat automatically activates the heating cables as soon as the temperature drops below 45 degrees F. The hose has bend restrictors at the ends to prevent kinking, heavy-duty brass couplings, and a 5-1/2-foot grounded power cord at the faucet-connection end. Available in 25- and 50-foot lengths, The Heated Hose draws 180 and 360 watts respectively. It is CUL/UL approved, and FDA approved for use with potable water. Learn more at www.leevalley.com.

THE WALKSTOOL

The Walkstool presents a handy new spin on the standard folding stool. Made in Sweden, the stool features unique telescoping legs that allow for two seating positions. With the legs extended, the stool has a regular three-legged stance. With the legs retracted, the base has a single broad foot that allows pivoting while crouched, reducing pressure on one's back and knees. This provides convenient maneuverability for low-to-the-ground work in automotive, plumbing, electrical, masonry, carpentry applications and more. Designed for long-term regular use, the stool has a nylon mesh seat that breathes, aluminum legs, and broad rubber-tipped feet that resist sinking into soft soils. Supplied in a carry bag, each model is capable of supporting more than 400 lbs. Three sizes are available. Learn more at www.leevalley.com.



GUTTER BRUSH

Keep the muck out of your gutters with the Gutter Brush, one of the simplest methods for keeping your eaves, troughs and downspouts clear of debris. Resembling an oversized pipecleaner, the brush is made of 4-1/2-inch diameter, UV-stable polypropylene bristles twisted in a double coil of galvanized steel. Slipped into standard 5-inch wide gutters (no tools required), it stays firmly in place to block leaves and debris from accumulating in the troughs and downspouts, but is hidden from ground-level view. While leaves stay on top of the stiff bristles where they dry up and blow away, water drains through easily. Annual clean-up of gutters is easy—remove the brush and shake it out. You can cover the entire length of your gutters with brushes, or place them only in problem areas and over downspouts. Made in the USA, the Gutter Brush is available in a 12-foot kit containing four 36-inch brushes, and a 30-foot kit with nine 36-inch and two 18-inch brushes. Learn more at www.leevalley.com.

LIFETIME LUMBER

LifeTime Lumber made its debut at the 2010 International Builders' Show as a new low-maintenance, eco-friendly and fire-resistant deck, dock and fence material. LifeTime Lumber is a unique alternative to wood lumber that offers the aesthetic attributes of wood, while solving the problems of maintenance, degradation and weathering. Containing no wood, plastic or

PVC, LifeTime Lumber is something completely new for the building industry—thermoset polymers combined with recycled mineral filler. The material is made from a patented mixture of polyurethane and fly ash, a non-hazardous inert material recovered from the electric power generation industry, which achieves a class A fire-rated product as tested by ASTM E-84.

"This new concept in wood replacement products is very easy to use as it is 25 percent lighter than other lumber composite products, and requires no special installation instructions," says Jim Mahler, president of LifeTime Lumber. "LifeTime Lumber 2-by-6-inch boards in a deck application have a joist span rating of 24 inches, so there is less material and time spent in construction." Learn more at www.lifetimelumber.com.

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Looking for a tiled deck? Duradek has been waterproofing roofdecks since 1974 with PVC sheet membranes that are meant to be walked on. So it wasn't much of a stretch for the company to redesign its regular Duradek Ultra membrane to come up with an anti-fracture, roofing membrane capable of having tile

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applied over top—Duradek Ultra Tiledek. Porcelain or stone tile on outdoor decks provides a beautiful surface, but the failure rate is typically high. In response, the Tiledek product is a 60-mil membrane (compared to others at 40 mils) installed only by trained contractors who specialize in roofdeck and balcony waterproofing. It's not a DIY product, but Duradek has 35 years of roofing and waterproofing experience for its installers to draw upon. Tiledek is made of dense PVC, and acts as a crack-isolation membrane that allows some movement in the structure—but no deflection—which prevents the tile from cracking. Learn more at www.duradek.com.

HITACHI MULTI-TASK TOOL & ATTACHMENTS

One of the highlights of Hitachi Power Tools' new outdoor power equipment lineup is the new CG22EADSLP multi-task tool. This is a split-shaft grass trimmer that features a 21.1cc commercial grade two-stroke engine and weighs only 11-1/2 pounds fully assembled with the trimmer head. However, this tool easily converts to an edger, extended-reach hedge trimmer, pole saw or mini-cultivator for ultimate flexibility within one tool platform. The multi-task tool features the S-Start Pull Force Reduction system, which results in quick and easy starts, and has a durable cover that protects the fuel tank from wear and tear. It comes with a 4-inch semi-automatic trimmer head. Sold separately are the optional attachments that include the CGPE portable edger attachment with 8-inch blade, the CGHT hedge trimmer attachment that articulates up to 130 degrees to reach above tall hedges, the CGPS pole saw attachment that can cut branches up to 8 inches in diameter, and the CGMC mini-cultivator attachment that delivers a 4-inch digging depth and 6-inch digging width capacity. Learn more at www.hitachipowertools.com.

HOMELITE SURFACE CLEANING PRESSURE WASHER

Washing large surfaces with a pressure washer's spray wand is like mowing a lawn with a string trimmer. It might eventually work, but expect a long slog and inconsistent results. Cleaning a driveway with a spray wand takes a lot of time and generally leaves uneven streaking over the surface where the water stream strikes different areas with varying force. Homelite's new 2,600 PSI Gasoline Pressure Washer Model HL80833 uses a 15-inch surface-cleaning deck, similar to a mower deck, that hovers over large surface areas while two nozzles spin at 1,500 RPM. This spinning action provides even, streak-free cleaning in much less time than it takes to clean using a standard pressure-washer wand. The unit offers three cleaning modes—wheeled surface cleaner; standard spray wand; and surface cleaner attached to the spray wand for elevated surfaces. It features a 170-cc OHV gas engine, on-board storage, four quick-connect nozzles and a 2-year limited warranty. Learn more at www.homelite.com.

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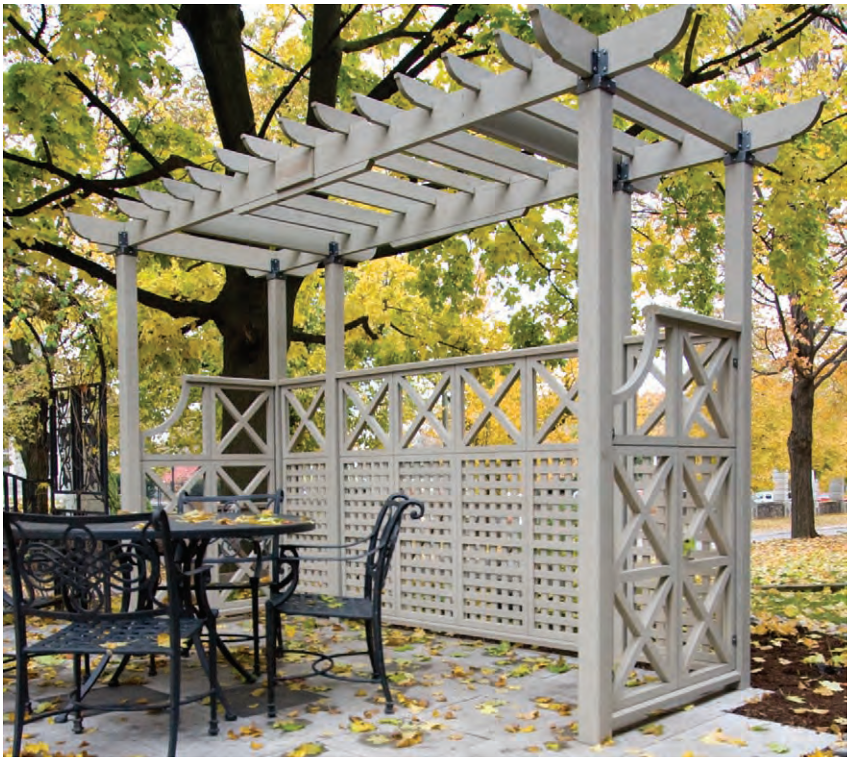

fences easily and affordably. This unique modular system allows for the creation of hundreds of designs with only fifteen basic components. Yardistry is a wood-based product made from exterior-grade cedar and finished with a water-based stain. With fifteen SKUs, the designer is provided with ultimate flexibility, style, quality and craftsmanship that is sure to enhance any landscape. Yardistry provides all the required architectural components, including an integrated hardware and connection system, to build a project from the ground up. The click-and-lock technology requires only a standard screwdriver. Learn more at www.yardistrystructures.com

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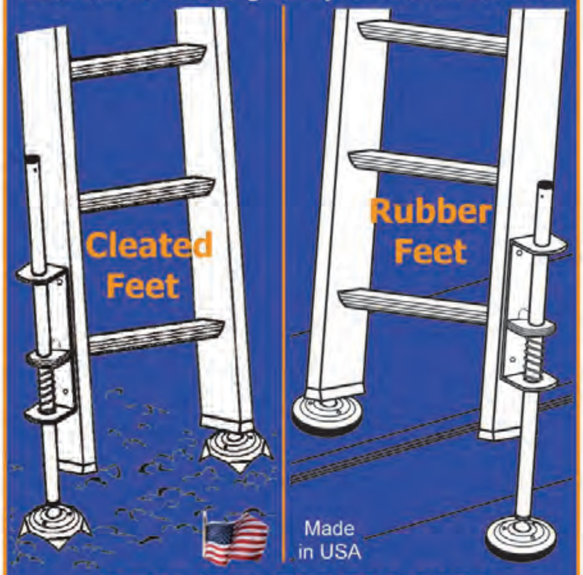

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Lookin’ Out My BACK DOOR

Framing and Installing an Exterior Door

By Matt Weber

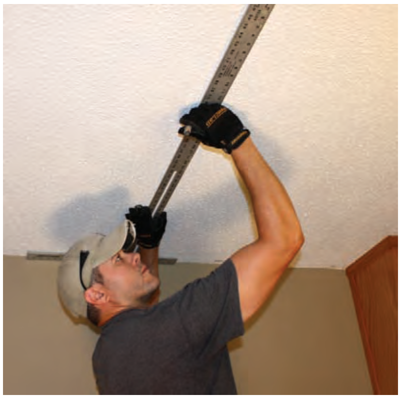
I recently built a nice, big deck at the rear of our project house, but there wasn’t a door to access it from inside. I decided to install the door in the kitchen at the corner of the house, since the only other two options were the master bedroom or a bathroom. The kitchen posed problems of its own, with a huge set of oak cabinets leaving us only about 8 feet of wall space with which to work. The project was definitely a challenge, but I managed to support the ceiling, cut through the wall, reframe the wall and install the door. Here’s how it went.

SOLID SUPPORT

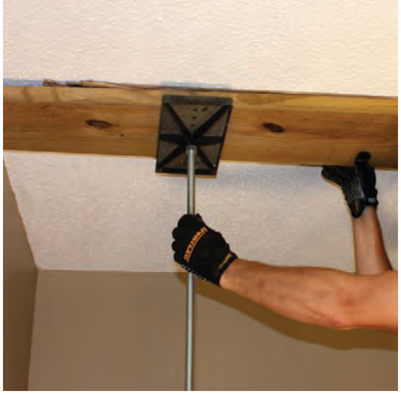
Any time you’re cutting the studs out of a load-bearing wall, you must construct a temporary brace wall to support the overhead load. If you’re dealing with a multistory structure, I’d suggest consulting a structural engineer about how to support a heavy load. In this case I was working on the top floor with only the roof overhead, which is easily supported by the bracing techniques shown here. To build this, I first marked the proposed location of the door on the wall, and then marked the location of the ceiling joists. Make sure the brace wall runs perpendicular to the ceiling framing, otherwise you’re just holding up drywall.

I then installed a top and bottom floor plate, each made of 2-by-10’s. Protect the flooring and finished ceiling by placing a few sheets of corrugated cardboard between the plates. Extend the brace wall so the top plate extends a few feet beyond each side of the proposed door location so the overhead framing is completely supported when you cut through the existing wall. Build it about 3 feet out from the wall you’re about to penetrate to allow room to work.

It's nice to have an assistant hold the top and bottom plates while you install the temporary studs to support the ceiling, but I didn't have that luxury. Instead, I used a T-Jak, which is a threaded, telescoping cabinet jack that works great for all sorts of overhead installations when you need a third hand. Beginning in the center, locate each 2-by-4 stud beneath the marks for the ceiling joists so you're transferring the weight directly to the vertical support.



Use a T-square to mark the ceiling joists near the location of your temporary brace wall.



A T-Jak is a helpful tool to support the top plate while you install the studs.

When installing the studs, don't bang them with a hammer to wedge them in place—doing so risks damaging the floor and ceiling. Instead, "snug" them between the plates, using shims if necessary. To make sure they stay in place, I fasten them temporarily by toe-screwing the studs into each plate once they're plumb.

Finally, I finish up the brace wall with a couple of 2-by-4 cross-braces fastened with two screws

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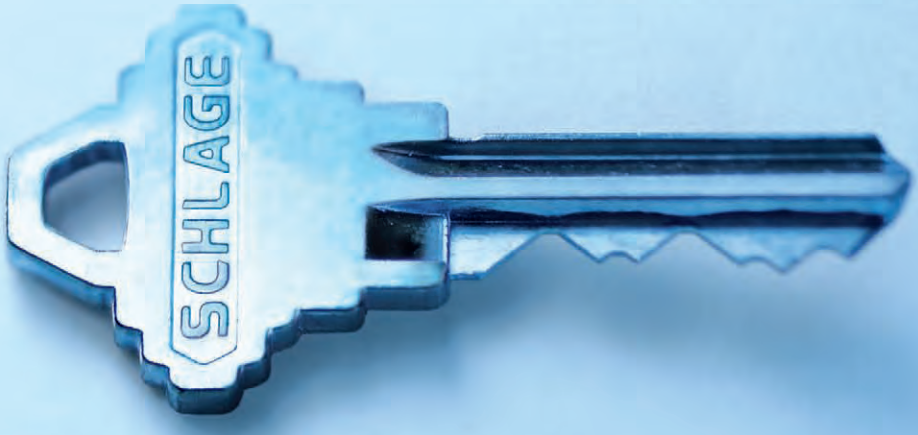

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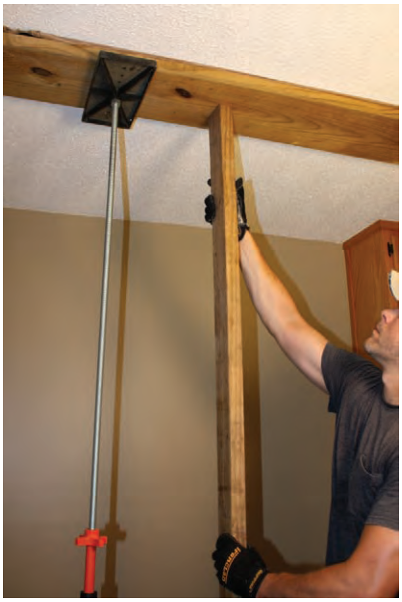
each to the edge of the 2-by-4 studs. I positioned the cross-braces in an "A" shape to allow some headroom to walk through when working.

TEAR DOWN THAT WALL

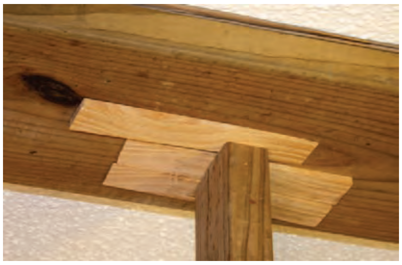
As long as you've got a brace wall in place, you might as well take advantage of this convenient frame on which to hang plastic sheeting. The homeowner will appreciate this dust barrier when you cut through the wall and kick up all sorts of airborne debris.

These days, many electronic stud finders offer the multi-functionality to detect pipes and electrical lines inside a wall. Use one if you've got it; otherwise proceed cautiously as you open the wall so as not to cut through such obstructions. This wall had no plumbing but did have an electrical outlet that was wired through the floor plate.

One extremely handy tool for opening the wall in an orderly



Measure between the top and bottom plate and cut the temporary studs to fit.



"Snug" the studs in place. Use shims if necessary rather than banging them into position with a hammer, which might damage the floor or ceiling.

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Make sure the studs are plumb on each face and toe-screw them into place.

Diagonal cross-braces strengthen the temporary wall.

fashion is a flush-cut saw. In my case, I used a Rotozip with a flush-cut attachment, which I highly recommend for this type if work. I slightly modified the flush-cut attachment by duct taping a wood shim onto the cutting guide, which gave me the exact depth-of-cut I needed to slice the drywall without |penetrating the framing—or anything else—on the other side. I then used a hammer to open the wallboard even further, pulling it away from the nails that held it on the studs, and then prying up the nails. Drywall can be a dusty mess to demolish,

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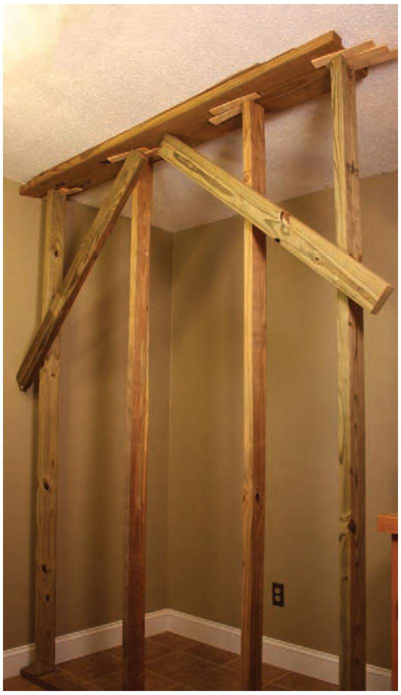

Temporary brace wall complete.

Use the brace wall as a frame to hang plastic sheeting as a dust barrier.

so remove it in as orderly a fashion as possible so you're dealing with large panels rather than tiny chunks.

Next, remove the insulation. Fiberglass can irritate the eyes and skin, so wear safety protection and dispose of the old batts in plastic bags.

At this point I ran into an unexpected obstacle: a 1-by-4 cross-brace supporting the corner of the house framing due to a lack of structural sheathing. The sheathing panels were an old fiberboard material used primarily as an insulator, and it doesn't have the shear strength of today's stronger, engineered wood sheathing. So, I had to re-frame the wall using an atypical method to accommodate the lack of structural sheathing, throwing a wrench into the standard framing procedure I was hoping to detail in this article.

There are two important things to point out. First, see the diagram on page 73 for the details on framing a standard door

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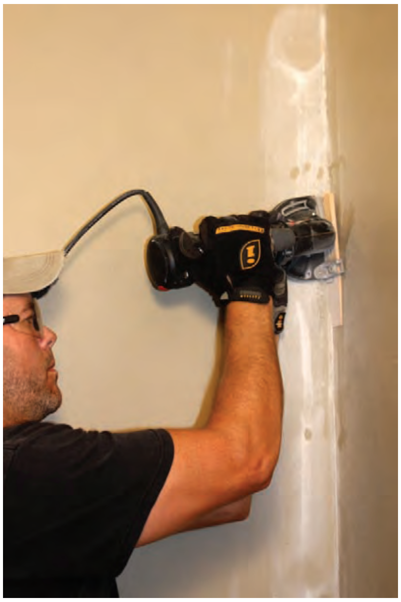
opening. You can probably expect to build according to that sketch, rather than my method that employed a monster 4-by-12 header, some extra doubled studs and metal strapping to frame this door. Second, I do not necessarily advocate framing your door using the method shown in the photos, in case you encounter a similar problem with your project. As always, consult your local building inspector for an approved method, as requirements for shear walls and general construction will vary among localities, based on everything from high-wind exposure and seismic concerns to simple politics. Do as your inspector says, not as I do.



I used a Rotozip with a flush-cut accessory to cut through the perimeter of the drywall panels.

A drywall saw helps to remove the panels neatly, without smashing the gypsum board to dust and crumbles.

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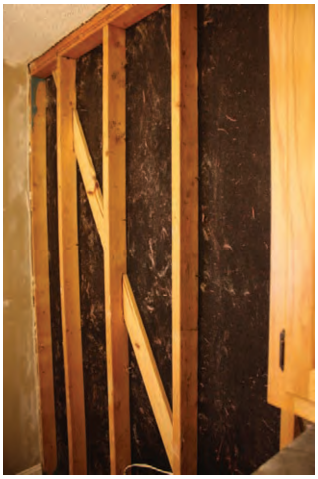
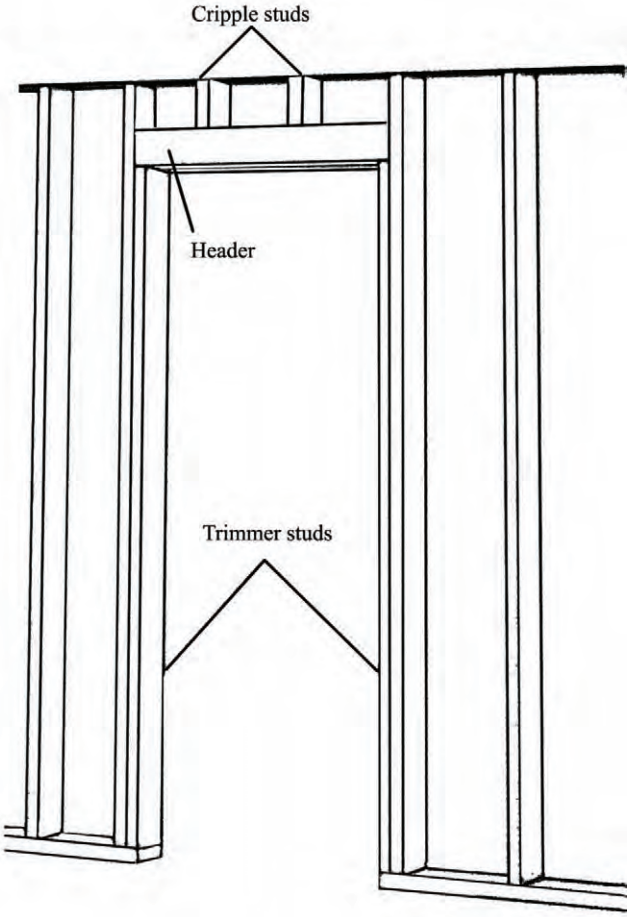
That being said, the methods for cutting through the wall and

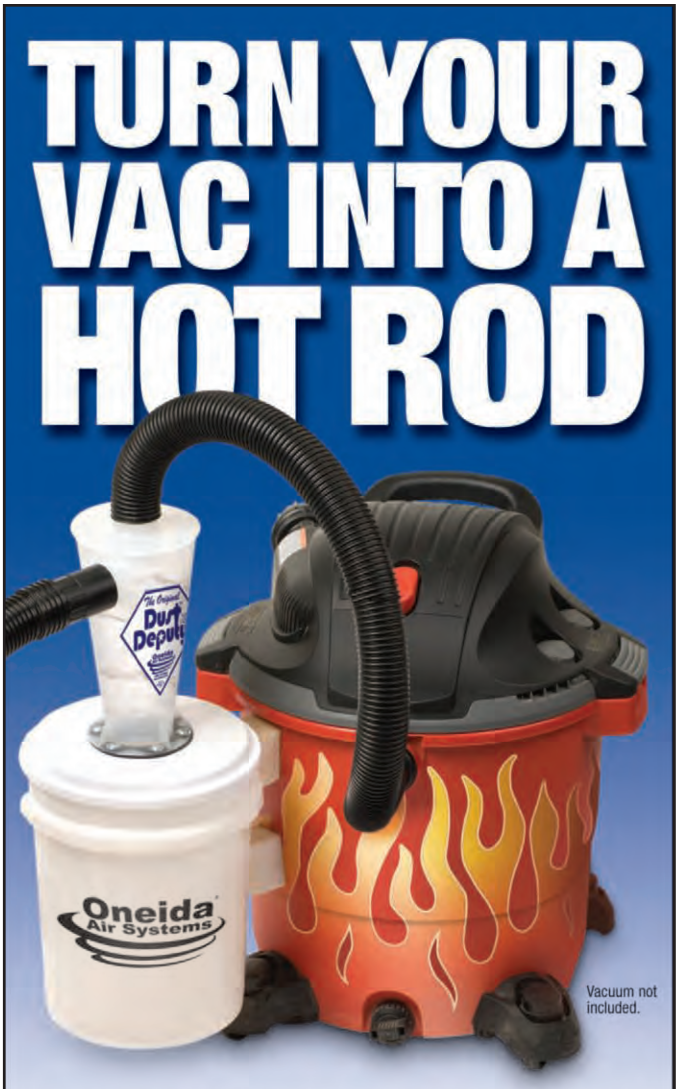
Use hand, eye and breathing protection when removing the old fiberglass batts.



This diagonal cross-brace complicated my job. This building technique was used to compensate for non-structural sheathing.



Shown in this diagram is a typical framing method for a single entry door.



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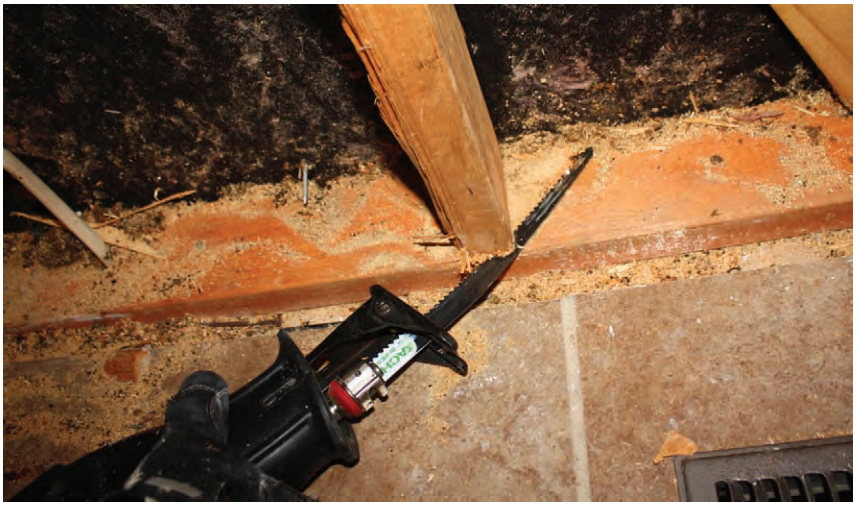
installing the door will remain the same among standard pre-hung door installations.

FRAMING THE DOOR

After cutting out the cross-brace with the Rotozip, I cut the existing studs out of the house wall by using a recip saw to slice through the nails at the top and bottom of each stud (start at the top). Refer to your door for the recommended rough opening size—mine was 34 inches wide, 82 inches high. When reframing the wall, you should double the studs that frame the door. The two inner studs, called trimmer studs, should be cut to support the door header from beneath. The header is designed to assume the load that would have been supported by the studs that you're removing; it transfers the weight to the trimmers. Unlike the monster 12-by beam I used as a header, most single entryways can get by with a 4-by-4 header. (For example, a 4-by-4 No. 2 Douglas fir header achieves a maximum span of 48



Starting at the bottom, remove the studs by cutting through the nails with a recip saw.

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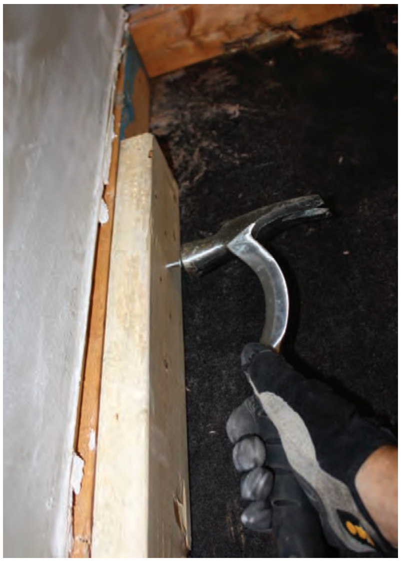

The trimmer studs should be cut to support the header from beneath, and then face-nailed to the adjacent studs to strengthen the door frame.

inches, which is much wider than a standard entryway.) For smaller headers the distance between the header and the top plate may be taken up by cripple studs (partial studs). Always make sure your rough opening is plumb, square and true.

For my particular situation, I was afraid to remove any more siding to replace the sheathing because the siding was dated from 1978, and I couldn't find an exact match. Replacing the siding for the entire house was not an option. My solution was to sandwich a sheet of rigid foam board between two 2-by-12's (to provide a thermal break), and to install the header not just over the door frame, but extending all the way to the corner of the house as well as over the second stud bay on the opposite side of the door. I doubled all the studs, and fastened the header flush beneath the ceiling top plate and over the studs, allowing the 82-inch high rough opening (accounting for the floor plate, which was still in place). I nailed the heck out of everything, and installed 4-inch wide sheet metal strapping the framing, running from the top plate, across the header and over the interior face of the new studs. I riddled the strapping with nails driven into all the framing components.

Other options include replacing the sheathing, or installing new steel let-in or wood diagonal braces to keep the shear flow from the corner to the foundation. I reiterate: If you're dealing with non-structural sheathing,

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POINT OF NO RETURN

Once the rough opening was constructed I used the Rotozip to cut away the sheathing and Styrofoam insulation from the entryway. I then used the same tool to cut the outline of the door frame through the metal siding at the top and bottom.

My next move was made from the outside of the house, where I marked plumb lines on the sides of the door frame, connecting my top and bottom cuts. I followed my cutlines with a lightweight 18-volt Makita circ saw, using a homemade edge guide that I built a couple of years ago. The thin kerf of the blade made short work of the siding, and as I

A door header must be the same thickness as the framing members. However, because a 2x4 stud is actually 1-1/2 by 3-1/2 inches, doubling two 2x boards only measures 3 inches. One solution is to install 1/2-inch rigid foam insulation between the header boards, which achieves the desired thickness but provides a thermal break over the door.

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5. Prefabricated tray *(available in different sizes)*

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zipped up the second side of the frame, the metal panels fell to the ground with a glorious crash. I then removed the floor plate between the trimmer studs, and the rough opening was ready for business.

At this point I felt a splash of mixed emotions. On one hand, demolition is kind of fun and exhilarating, and I got a surge of adrenaline while thinking, “Wow,

In my case, the header extended from one corner of the house, across the door frame and over the following stud bay. This is not a typical door frame and it may not be an acceptable method in your area. Check with your local code official.

It’s critical that the rough opening for the door be framed completely plumb, back to front and left to right.

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Bob Vila ranks new 2011 EdenPURE® portable heater #1 in North America

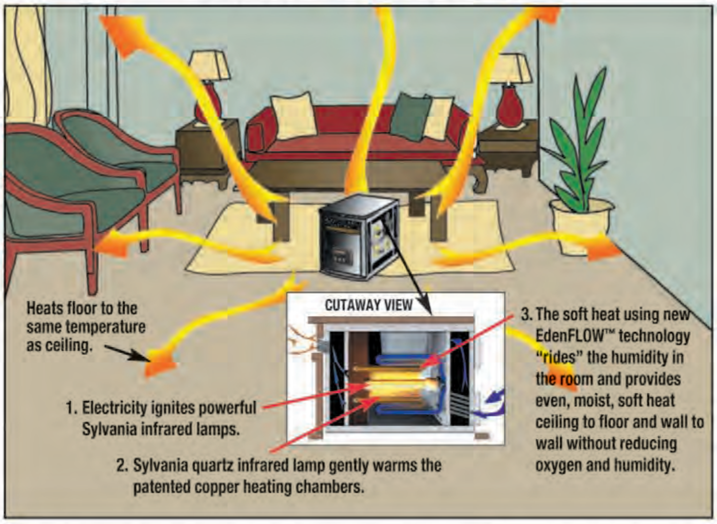
U.S. designed and engineered GEN4 uses new Sylvania heat source and EdenFLOW™ direct air technology

Accept no imitations - portable heaters and fireplaces "dry out" the air with inefficient ceramic heating elements

Never be cold again

Firemen and safety professionals choose EdenPURE®. We all read about space heaters and the danger of fire. The EdenPURE® has no exposed heating elements that can cause a fire. And your pet may be just like my dog that has reserved a favorite spot near the EdenPURE®. – *Bob Vila*

How it works:


Heats floor to the same temperature as ceiling.
CUTAWAY VIEW
1. Electricity ignites powerful Sylvania infrared lamps.
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3. The soft heat using new EdenFLOW™ technology "rides" the humidity in the room and provides even, moist, soft heat ceiling to floor and wall to wall without reducing oxygen and humidity.

Bob Vila, America's Favorite Home Improvement Expert,
Canton, Ohio

I know why millions of Americans are saving on their heating bills with the EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater.

And now you can save up to $102 on the new 2011 EdenPURE® GEN4, the finest portable heater in the world.

The new GEN4 was designed and engineered in the USA and has several patented technological breakthroughs to save you money on your heating bill.

U.S. engineers combined specially designed Sylvania Infrared Bulbs with the existing EdenPURE® copper heating chambers for more efficient heating. They even redesigned the air flow, resulting in amplified heating performance. The designers at EdenPURE® call this their "EdenFLOW™ Direct Air" technology.

For over 30 years as your home improvement television host, I have reviewed and experienced thousands of products. I have an EdenPURE® in my Massachusetts home and found it to be a very safe and reliable source of portable heat. This is one of those few comfort investments I can recommend for your home that will truly pay dividends.

We all know heating costs are expected to remain at record levels. The cost of heating our homes will continue to be a significant burden on the family budget. The EdenPURE® GEN4 can cut your heating bills, pay for itself in a matter of weeks, and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

With over one million satisfied customers around the world, the new EdenPURE® heats better, faster, saves more on heating bills, and runs almost silent.

A major cause of residential fires in the United States is portable heaters. The choice of fire and safety professionals everywhere, the EdenPURE® has no exposed heating elements that can cause a fire.

The outside of the EdenPURE® only gets warm to the touch so that it will not burn children or pets. And your pet may be just like my dog who has reserved a favorite spot near the EdenPURE®.

The EdenPURE® can also help you feel better. Unlike EdenPURE® imitators, it will not reduce humidity or oxygen in the room. These imitators use ceramic plates instead of our patented copper. The EdenPURE® GEN4 has over 1 pound of copper! Cheap ceramic plates reduce humidity, dry out your sinuses and make your skin dry. With other heating sources, you'll notice that you get sleepy when the heat comes on because they are burning up oxygen.

The advanced space-age EdenPURE® GEN4 also heats the room evenly, wall to wall and floor to ceiling. Other heating sources heat rooms unevenly with most of the heat concentrated high and to the center of the room. And as you know, portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater. With the EdenPURE®, the temperature will not vary in any part of the room.

Photos using infrared lighting demonstrated that the heat was almost perfectly even from floor to ceiling and wall to wall. The EdenPURE® advanced infrared efficiency is based on the distribution of energized air, not on just fan movement. This heat is called "soft heat" due to how comfortable it is.

How can a person cut their heating bill with the EdenPURE®? First, the EdenPURE® uses less energy to create heat than many other sources, but that is just part of why it will cut a person's heating bill. The EdenPURE® will heat a room in minutes. You will immediately notice the difference! Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE®, will be warm and comfortable.

Your EdenPURE® GEN4 Portable easily rolls from room to room. Using zone heating keeps you comfortable and reduces your heating bills. This can drastically cut heating bills; in some instances, the savings may be substantial.

The EdenPURE® will pay for itself in weeks. It will keep a great deal of extra money in a user's pocket. Because of today's spiraling gas, oil, propane, and other energy costs, the EdenPURE® will provide even greater savings as time goes by.

With no increase in price, the new EdenPURE® GEN4 has been updated with the latest technology, safety, and comfort features to provide you with even greater comfort, more savings, and years of reliability.

The EdenPURE® GEN4 Portable Heater comes with a comprehensive five year warranty and a 60-day, no questions asked, satisfaction guarantee – EdenPURE® will even pay for the return shipping. There is absolutely no risk. And EdenPURE® is the only portable heater with a National Service Network.

How to order:

There are two models to choose from: the new U.S. engineered GEN4 or our Personal Heater. The GEN4 comfortably heats an area up to 1,000 square feet while the Personal Heater covers up to 300 square feet.

During our special, you are eligible for a $75 DISCOUNT PLUS FREE SHIPPING AND HANDLING FOR A TOTAL SAVINGS OF UP TO $102 on the EdenPURE® GEN4. And now you can save an additional $100 on new Personal Heaters for a total savings of $192. This special offer expires in 10 days. If you order after that, we reserve the right to either accept or reject order requests at the discounted price. See my attached Authorized Discount Coupon to take advantage of this savings opportunity.

The EdenPURE® carries a 60-day unconditional, no-risk guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied, return it at our expense and your purchase price will be refunded. No questions asked. There is also a 5-year warranty on all parts and labor for the GEN4 and a 3-year warranty for the Personal Heater.

BOB VILA'S AUTHORIZED DISCOUNT COUPON

The price of the EdenPURE® GEN4 is $472 plus $27 shipping and handling and $372 plus $17 shipping and handling for the Personal Heater, but, with this Authorized Discount Coupon, you will receive a $75 discount, free shipping and handling and be able to get the EdenPURE® GEN4 for only $397 delivered and the Personal Heater for only $197 delivered. After 10 days we reserve the right to either accept or reject order requests at the discounted price.

Check below which model and number you want:
☐ GEN4 Heater, number ____ ☐ Personal Heater, number ____

☐ I am ordering within 10 days, therefore I get a $75 discount, free shipping and handling and my price is only $397 for GEN4 Heater delivered.
☐ I am ordering within 10 days, therefore I get a $175 discount, free shipping and handling and my price is only $197 for the Personal Heater delivered.
☐ I am ordering past 10 days, therefore I pay full price of $472 plus $27 shipping & handling for GEN4 Heater and $372 plus $17 shipping & handling for the Personal Heater.

- To claim your discount or by phone: call **toll-free 1-800-630-8983**. Operators are on duty Monday - Friday 6am - 3am, Saturday 7am - 12am and Sunday 7am - 11pm, EST. Give operator your Authorization Code on this coupon.
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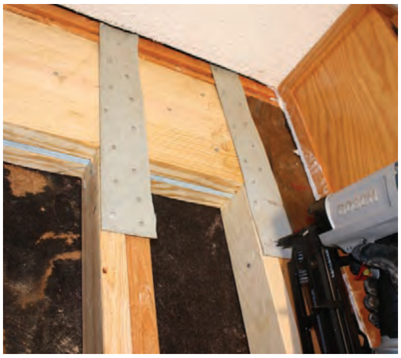
I've just put a big hole in this house.” That was followed by a wave of panic as I fretted, “No turning back, now—you've gotta fix this.”



Metal strapping running from the top plate, over the header and over the face of all four doubled studs helped add shear strength to this door frame. Again, this is not typical.

Next, I cut out the sheathing and Styrofoam insulation to expose the back of the siding.

INSTALLING THE DOOR

I picked up the pre-hung fiberglass door at my local Lowe's Home Improvement store (www.lowes.com). It's a Therm-tru door, which is well insulated for weather protection and comes pre-primed with pre-cut holes for the door knobs. The installation procedure for this door is basically the same as most other pre-hung doors. In some cases, a split-jamb door may be required for thicker walls, because they install from both the interior and exterior of the house to sandwich the wall between the split jamb.

This article depicts a single-jamb door that tilts into the

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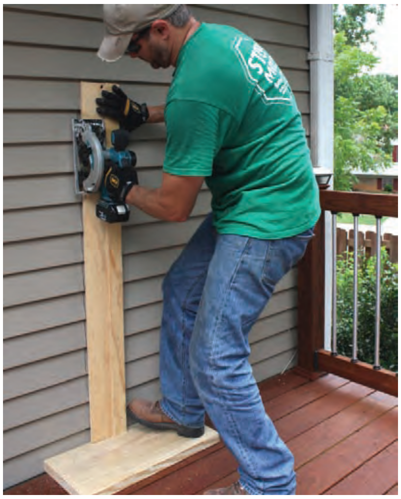
rough opening from the outside. I had to decide whether to set the brick molding of the new door into the metal siding, so the siding butts against the side of the trim, or if I should set the brick molding on top of the siding, concealing the cuts. I opted for the latter method so the brick mold would hide any rough cuts in the metal. However,the protruding profile of the siding meant the door was pulled slightly to the exterior side of the house rather than being flush with the drywall on the interior side. This positioning made the interior-side

Damage done—a big hole in wall. Here, I'm quietly praying that the door installation goes off without a hitch because I've done some serious damage to the house.

I used the Rotozip to cut the outline of the rough opening through the siding at the top and bottom of the door location.



I used a 4-foot level to mark the plumb lines of the rough opening, then cut through the siding using a cordless circ saw with a homemade edge guide.

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trim work more difficult—just something to think about in case you try this at home.

Before installing the door, wrap the rough opening in flashing. For ground level doors, a sill pan is recommended. Since this was a second story door, I went with continuous aluminum flashing beneath the sill, and used some

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If the garage door is not closed before the alarm ends (30 seconds), Protectrix™ sends a signal to your garage door opener to close the garage (the signal sent is the same as the signal sent from your garage door remote control).

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Battery Type: 9V/9 Volt alkaline battery (included)
Battery Life: 2 years: depends on temperature, humidity, and how often Protectrix closes your garage door
Product Warranty: 2 month refund, 2 year replacement
Dimensions: 85mm (3 1/3") x 120mm (4 3/4") x 32mm (1 1/4")
Weight: 200g (7 oz)

SETUP AND INSTALLATION:

Step1: Press the "Learn" button until light turns on.
Step 2: Hold down the test switch until unit beeps. Press the switch again and your garage door should open and close.
Step 3: Screw Protectrix back plate to the inside of the garage door. (screws included)
Step 4: Replace the front cover to the back plate mounted on the garage door.
Step 5: Adjust the dial to the delay time you want the Protectrix to wait before closing the garage door.

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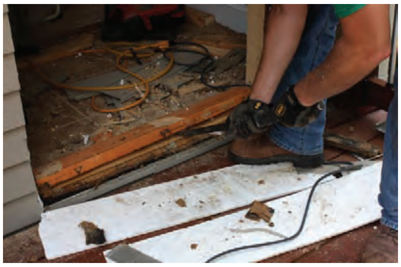
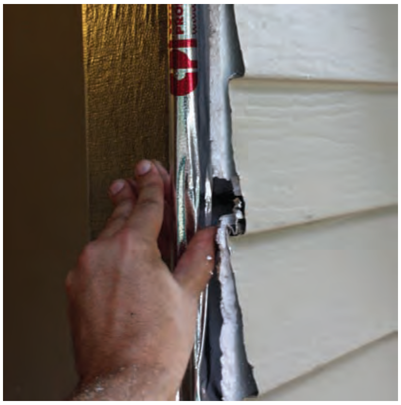
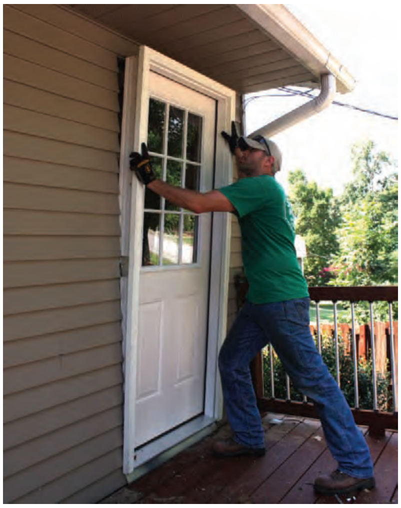

I cut and pry loose the floor plate to make room for the door sill.


Wrap the door frame with weatherproof flashing. I used a self-adhesive flashing barrier from Cofair Products.


Caulk the sill and the brick mold trim around the door perimeter, and then tilt the pre-hung door into the rough opening. Fasten it temporarily with a screw through the jamb. Do not screw it down tightly at this point. This door is manufactured by Therma-tru, courtesy of Lowe's (www.lowes.com).

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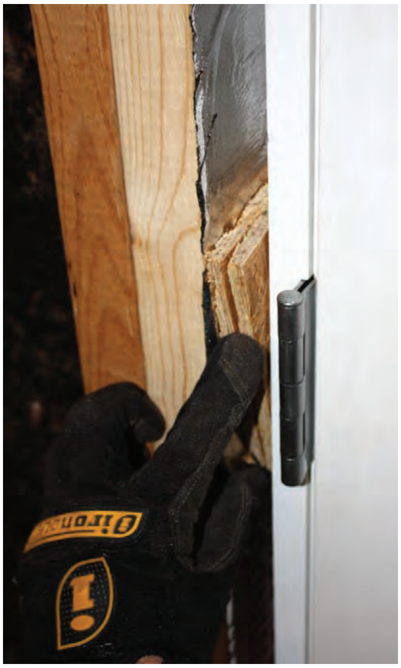
flexible adhesive flashing from Cofair Products around the top and sides, lapping it over the surrounding sheathing and tucking it behind the siding.

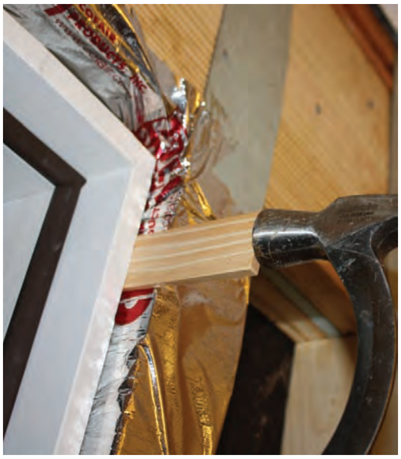
Apply large beads of caulk over the sill flashing. Also, apply a bead of exterior-grade caulking around the back of the brick mold around the entire perimeter of the door. Tilt the door into place.

At this point I pressed the brick molding flush with the metal siding and drove a couple of screws into the door jamb to hold it in place temporarily. Plumb the hinge-side of the jamb first. Using a 4-foot level, plumb and level it both right and left, inside and outside. When positioned, drive screws through the hinge side jamb into the studs using 3-inch exterior-grade screws. Leave the screws loose. Place wood shims between the opening and jamb, above the temp screws and behind each hinge location. Check again the jamb side is plumb and straight, then finish driving screws in the middle, then the top and bottom. Once the hinge side is secure, you can adjust the rest of the frame and fasten in the same manner. Remove excess shim material by cutting it away with a razor.

From that point forward, it's all a matter of sealing the door and addressing the cosmetics. I used Lexel sealant to double-seal the exterior side of the door, and then installed drywall and decorative trim, filled the fastener holes and repainted everything. I installed a doorknob and deadbolt, and that completed the new back door that conveniently accesses our nice, new deck. **EHT**



Plumb the hinge side of the door first, using shims as necessary. It's especially important to use shims behind the hinge plates.



Once the hinge side is plumb and fastened securely, do the same to the latch side. Install wood shims for a snug and plumb fit. After the door is fastened in place you can cut away the extra shim material with a utility knife.

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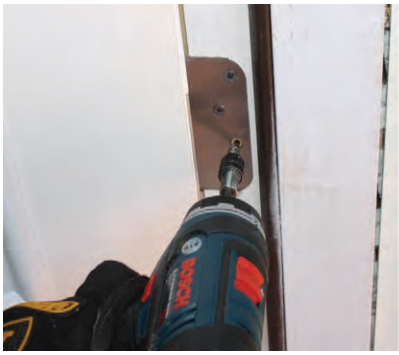
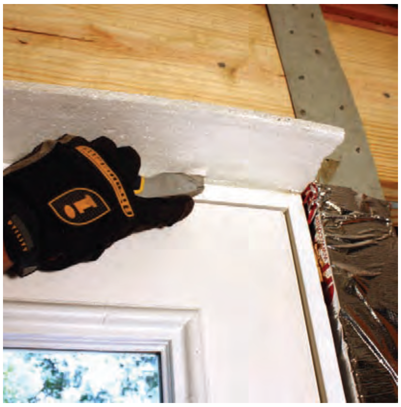
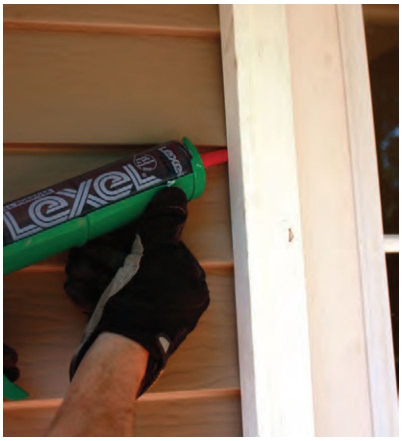


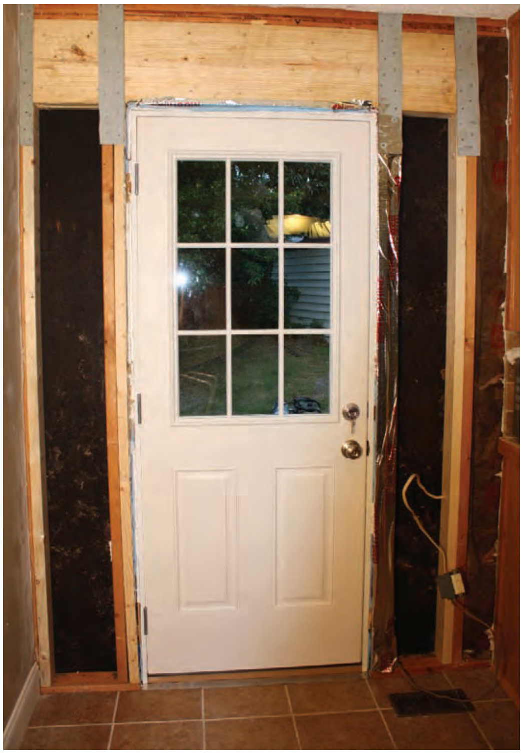
The Therma-tru door includes an uninstalled No. 10 x 2-1/12 wood screw for each hinge. Once the door is plumb and fastened. Drive the screws through the open hole in each hinge to anchor the door frame and prevent sagging.



I recycled the Styrofoam insulation to use as weatherproofing around the door frame and then caulked everything together.



Some Lexel sealant applied around the brick mold gives the door a weather-tight seal.



Shown is the new back door before rebuilding the wall and adding paint and trim.

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First Impressions

Installing a New Handle-set in an Entry Door

Shown is the new Addison handle-set from Schlage.

by Matt Weber

They say you never get a second chance to make a first impression, and a home's entryway is the focal point that any visitor will notice first. Whereas a simple doorknob often goes overlooked due to its small size, a handle-set is designed to highlight the decorative appeal of the door hardware. Upgrading from a simple knob design, or replacing a worn-out handle with a more modern style, can spruce up an entryway for a whole new look.

Installation of a new door handle-set can be a quick and simple project, especially if you're installing in precut knob holes. However, in some cases the precut holes are actually located too low for comfortable use of a latch handle, so compare the hole's height with the recommended installation height of a handle-set; a knob may be more appropriate for some precut doors.

If the holes aren't precut, then you will need to cut the holes using a hole saw, a spade bit and a powered drill. Aside from that, the only tools required are a Philip's head screwdriver, hammer, tape measure, wood chisel and a smaller drill bit for drilling the handle's lower through-bolt.

The methods of installation shown here are specific to the Addison style handle-set from Schlage (www.schlage.com). However, the procedure will be similar for other manufacturers' handle-sets. The Addison handle-set is available with a variety of interior knobs and levers, and comes in several finishes, from satin nickel and aged bronze to bright chrome and matte black.

IN WITH THE NEW

For this project we replaced an old handle-set that was more than 20 years old and falling

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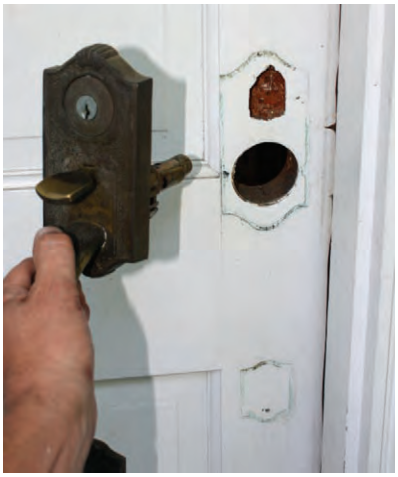


The old door handle had an integrated key, which left an ugly key hole in the door surface that we would have to fill and paint.

apart. The old handle had an integrated key lock, but the new Schlage unit did not. This meant the door had an extra key hole bored into it that would have to be filled with putty or Bondo. (If it's not one thing, it's another, right?)

The existing knob hole did conveniently fit the new handle, but it was necessary to drill a new hole for the handle-set's separate deadbolt. Naturally, you want to line up the holes on top of one another, and Schlage conveniently includes a paper template in the package that helps to locate the knob holes.

Test-fitting the new handle ensured that the existing knob hole was cut with the appropriate diameter.

Schlage includes a paper template to help locate the holes for the door hardware.

Before drilling the deadbolt hole, double-check your manufacturer's instructions for the recommended diameter, because they can vary somewhat. Schlage recommends a 2-1/8-inch hole for the Addison handle-set, and our 18-volt Bosch drill easily powered through the wood stock.

For the deadbolt, it was also necessary to use a 1-inch spade bit to drill the bolt hole in the edge of the door, as well as for the strike plate in the door jamb. And, anytime you're cutting new knob holes, you'll also have to cut mortises for the faceplates of the latch and deadbolt. This is done by tracing the faceplate perimeter with a pencil and using a wood chisel and hammer to chip out a recessed area just deep enough to set the faceplate flush with the wood surface.

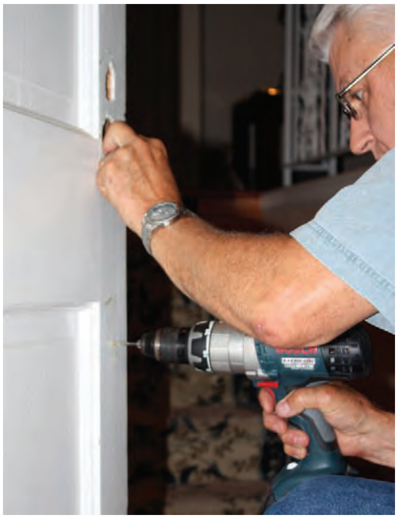
Another handy feature of the Schlage model is that it also features a patented through-bolt at the bottom of the handle that slides up and down. So, if you're replacing an older handle-set you probably won't have to drill a new hole for the new through-bolt. However, the old latch didn't utilize a through-bolt—only a short screw that didn't completely penetrate the door—so we had to drill it through.

Once the door is drilled, installation is a simple job. Mount the latch and deadbolt into the mortises with two screws each. Then, install the handle-set according to the instructions, aligning the spindle with the latch. Add the interior lever, rotating the chassis tabs so it slips through the latch and easily joins the handle. Two screws are all that's required to fasten the handles together.

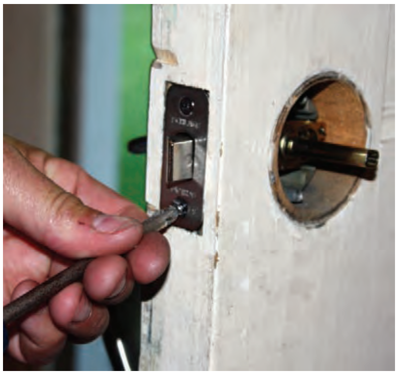
Finish the handle-set by installing the lower through-bolt, which comes with a cover cap

A hole-saw was necessary to cut a new hole for the deadbolt assembly.

We used a spade bit to bore the holes for the bolt and strike plate.



A through-bolt anchors the bottom of the handle to the door.



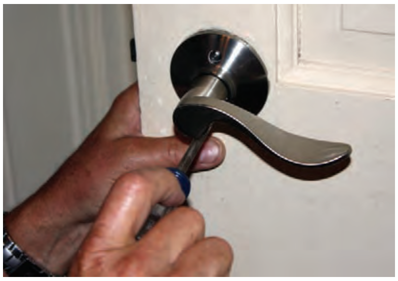
The faceplates install simply, using just two screws each.

to conceal the interior bolt head for a finished appearance.

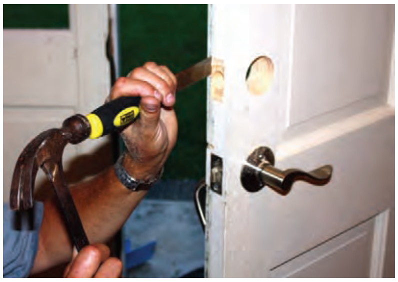
The deadbolt housing installs in a similar simple fashion, requiring only two bolts to join the halves over the deadbolt.

When installing the strike plate, the deadbolt striker comes with two long, 3-inch screws to drive into the door jamb. This design provides extra holding power for the deadbolt.

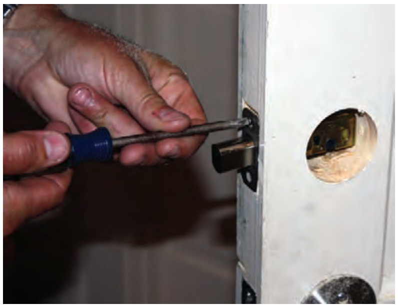
And, that's the last step to this fairly straightforward project. Of course, it never hurts to repaint the door, or in our case, fill a big, ugly key hole. Once that was finished, the door boasted an updated look to welcome the neighbors. **EHT**



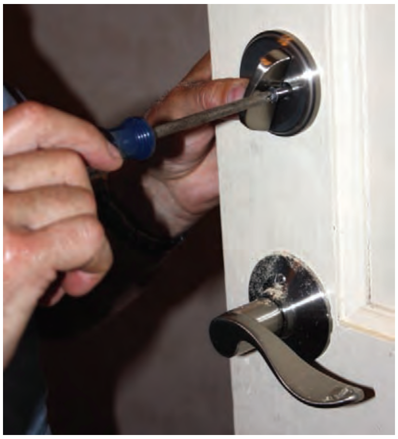
Two bolts are all that's required to install the interior handle.



A wood chisel and hammer are required to cut the mortises for the faceplates.



In some cases, the entire installation may require no more tools than a Philip's head screwdriver.



Fastening the deadbolt assembly is the last step in installing the new handle-set.

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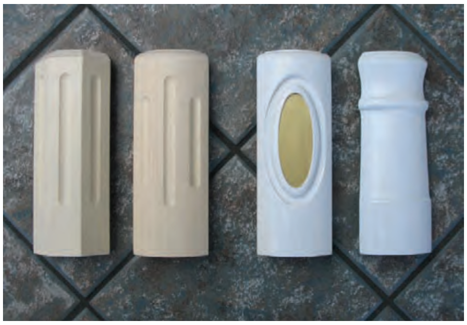

WELLS LAMONT ULTIMATE WORK GLOVE

The *EHT* staff puts a lot of gloves through a lot of punishment, and over the past several months we've been trying out Wells Lamont's new Ultimate Work Glove. When working with bricks, block or lumber, it's nice to have finger protection, and the glove's reinforced double leather knuckle protection spares your hands some painful impact. The fingertips are protected by ProTip direct-injection padding that reduces wear, and integrated PVC patching on the fingers and palm gives the user superb grip and control. Available in medium, large and extra large, The Ultimate Work Glove also features an adjustable hook-and-loop wrist closure that can be tightened for a custom fit and to keep out dirt and debris. Visit www.wellslamont.com.

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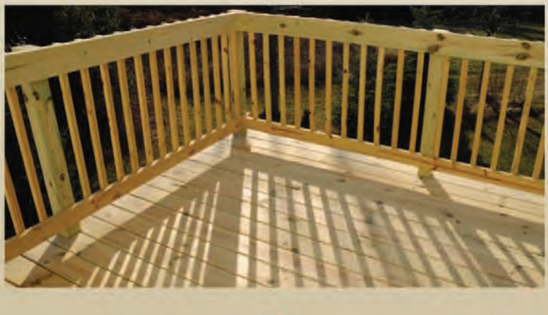

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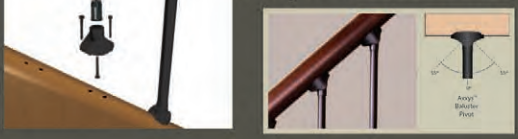

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